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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

**Are you in favor
of the CNMI and
Guam reuniting?**

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Indochina Tussle

Cambodia on Monday accused Thailand of damaging two ancient temples.

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Easter Prayer

Pope Benedict XVI offered an Easter prayer Sunday for diplomacy to prevail over warfare in Libya.

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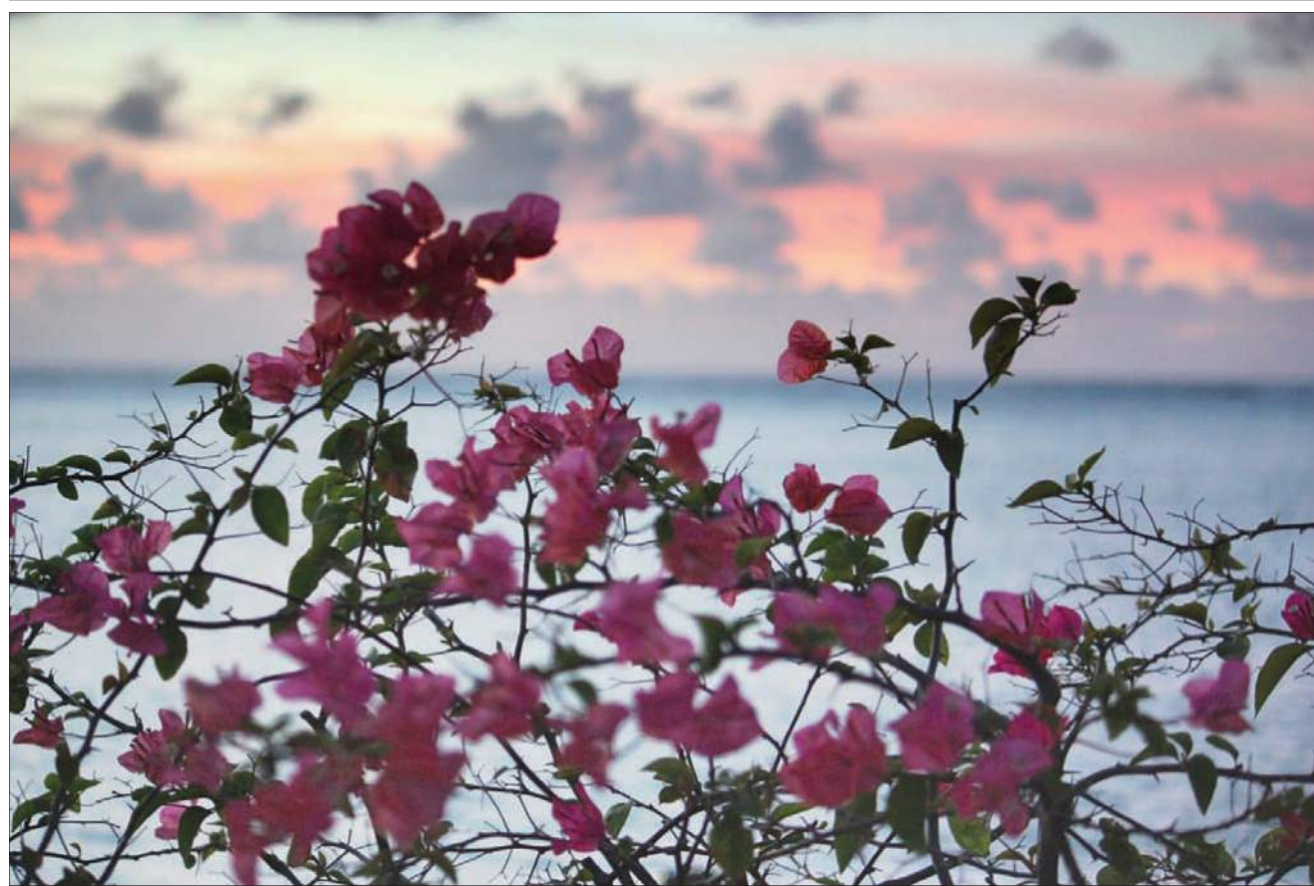
Rio on Top

Anne Hathaway and Jesse Eisenberg's talking birds have edged out Tyler Perry's sass-talking grandma at the weekend box office.

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Defendant in Kagman rape case wants to withdraw guilty plea. PAGE 2
'Retirement Fund board attacks retirees.' PAGE 5

'NMI, Guam reunification will be up to the people'



ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Saipan's spectacular sunsets like this one at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao, are always something to look forward to among island residents and tourists. But despite the tropical paradise that it is, the CNMI has been experiencing a decline in its monthly arrivals, even before a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit its main tourism market of Japan on March 11.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2011

19 of 29 lawmakers with perfect attendance

» **But only 1 of 54 bills introduced became law right away**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

More than half or 19 of 29 lawmakers had perfect attendance during the 17

House and Senate sessions between January and March 2011 but only one of the 54 bills introduced in the same quarter became law within that timeframe.

A total of 10 laws were signed during the first quarter, but nine of them—including the milestone shark fin ban and the removal of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s \$250 million privatization tag price—were bills introduced last year.

The bill that became Public Law 17-29 or the Japan Air Service Stabilization Program law was introduced on Jan. 13 and was enacted on Feb. 23.

However, barely a month after it was signed into law, it's already up for amendment.

The amendment, introduced also by the original bill's author, House floor See **ATTENDANCE** on Page 4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A bill that seeks to ask the people of Guam next year if they support reunification with CNMI residents is drawing different reactions from CNMI leaders and residents, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who said the decision rests with the people of the Commonwealth by way of another plebiscite.



Fitial

Other lawmakers and residents do not necessarily support reunification with Guam, which rejected reunification with the NMI 42 years ago, on Nov. 4, 1969.

See **NMI** on Page 4

Shark fin soup will be illegal by Thursday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shark fin soup lovers have only until tomorrow to legally enjoy their favorite dish.

The 90-day grace period in the shark fin ban law ends tomorrow.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), author of the shark fin ban bill that became Public Law 17-27 on Jan. 27, said yesterday that the law gave restaurants a 90-day grace period which ends April 27 to sell or offer for sale shark fins.

He said after the 90th day or starting See **SHARK FIN** on Page 4



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Local

Defendant in Kagman rape case wants to withdraw guilty plea

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Angel Jess Santos, a 21-year-old man who agreed to a plea bargain for his participation in the rape of a 16-year-old Kagman student, now wants to withdraw his guilty plea as the prosecution has not re-filed the charges against three other suspects until now.

"I believe that the three other suspects were the most culpable and did the most damage and harm to the victim yet the Office of the Attorney General has not moved on re-filing the charges against the three other suspects," Santos said in his declaration to support the motion to withdraw.

Santos asked the Superior Court to allow him to withdraw his guilty plea and set the matter for jury trial.

Attorney Joseph James Norita Camacho, counsel for Santos, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that because of all

the mishandling in this case, it appears now that no one at the OAG wants to prosecute this case for fear of losing the case and tarnishing their imaginary "winning streak."

Camacho said Santos from the very beginning was willing to testify against the three other suspects.

"It is a very sad situation. It seems that they (OAG) are more concerned with their win-loss record than serving and upholding the interest of justice, especially justice for the victim," Camacho said.

Santos has been in detention since his arrest on June 18, 2010. He immediately pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree as part of a plea agreement with the government.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, he will be sentenced upon completion of the trial. Under the agreement, the jail term to be imposed on Santos

is not less than 10 years, but not more than 20 years.

In December 2010, the OAG moved to dismiss without prejudice the case against co-defendants Joseph Camacho Jr., Alfred P. Hocog, and Ivan Jones Castro. Associate Judge David Wiseman granted the motion.

In Santos' motion to withdraw filed in court yesterday, atty. Camacho said that in January 2011, the OAG requested three months to re-file charges against Joseph Camacho, Hocog, and Castro.

Atty. Camacho said his client consented to postponing his sentencing based on the OAG's representation that new charges will be re-filed against the three other suspects.

Atty. Camacho said he raised the issue to the OAG that his case is set for sentencing for April 26, 2011.

The lawyer said the OAG, however, indicated that they have five jury trials in the next

five weeks and are unable to devote the time to this case.

Santos in his declaration said after three months, he does not think the OAG will re-file the charges against the three other suspects.

"I do not think the plea agreement which contemplates my co-operation and testimony against the three other suspects will be fully considered because of the failure of the OAG to bring the charges against the three other suspects," Santos said.

Police said Santos confessed to being one of three persons who kidnapped the victim and that he only served as a lookout as one of them raped the student at Tank Beach on June 16, 2010.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her.

The victim was walking toward Kagman High School when one suspect blocked her path. One grabbed her and beat her up repeatedly.

Trial of suspected big-time 'ice supplier begins

» Detective narrates how the defendant eluded task force in car chase

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The jury trial of suspected big-time supplier of methamphet-

amine or "ice" began yesterday in the Superior Court.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman completed yesterday the selection of seven jurors

who will decide the fate of Qun Yu, also known as Papasang.

After the prosecution and the defense counsels' opening statements, assistant attorney gen-

eral Russell Lorfing called the government's first witness—Detective Sean White.

White testified how Yun managed to escape during a car chase with CNMI Drug Task Force members and detectives along Middle Road in Gualo Rai to Chalan Kiya in the afternoon of Aug. 4, 2010.

White said when the Toyota Land Cruiser crashed into some trash outside a house in Chalan Kiya, Yu jumped out and fled into the jungle.

White said Yu's girlfriend, Zhang Ling, was left in the vehicle and was arrested.

After the task force managed to buy "ice" from the couple, they launched operation on the two.

White said they followed the suspects' vehicle along Middle Road, until it crashed in Chalan Kiya.

The detective said during the chase, the suspects threw some "ice" and money out on the street.

The other detectives, he said, were able to recover the thrown evidence.

White said after a few days, Yu was arrested in Marpi.

White is expected to continue his testimony today when the trial resumes at 9:30am.

In the subsequent search at Yu's residence, task force agents reportedly seized over 540 grams or half a kilo of "ice."

Yu's arrest on Aug. 25, 2010 came after an unidentified man reported spotting an Asian male in Marpi who seemed disoriented and dehydrated.

Patrol officers spotted the man later identified as the then wanted Yun in the vicinity of the former Radar Station.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff is counsel for Yu.



GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

A group of men carry a giant wooden cross from the base of Mount Tapochao to its summit in observance of Good Friday. Every year, hundreds and even thousands make the annual pilgrimage to Saipan's highest peak.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2 House panels recommend passage of 4 bills

» Including substitute beneficiary derivative measure

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Two House committees are recommending the passage of four bills, including a substitute version of a measure that allows beneficiaries of trusts and retirement fund programs to have the same standing and rights to sue when trustees refuse to do so.

Among the key features of the substitute bill on the beneficiary derivative act is a new section "limiting the right to sue."

This new section does not give retirees the right to sue the CNMI government "to force government contributions to the

Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund."

The Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations chaired by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) recommends that the House pass Senate Bill 17-43, Senate Draft 1 in the form of House Substitute 1.

The substitute version also thoroughly discusses the importance of the measure in its findings section, and clearly establishes the forms of trusts and funds covered by the bill. It also rewrites certain sections to ensure clarity and intent and make technical changes.

Demapan's JGO Committee

also recommends House passage of House Bill 17-162 in its current form. This bill creates a CNMI Computer Crime Act of 2011.

The committee also recommends passage in its current form of HB 17-146, which seeks to ensure the CNMI government's timely processing and prompt payment of vendors.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) Ways and Means Committee, meanwhile, recommends passage of HB 17-110 in its current form.

This bill provides restrictions on the transfer of fixed assets and capital goods bought by either house of the Legislature.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

May is Tourism Month

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** and Northern Marianas community are gearing up a full slate of activities over the next several weeks. The month of May 2011 will be officially declared CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 2 p.m. on Friday (April 29) at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill.



Tourism Month's highlight will be the weekly **Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden** to be held every Saturday at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

Every Friday in May is **Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear** day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "**Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands**" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow "**My Marianas**" **Community Outreach Presentation** on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Also, the MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics with on-the-street interviews featured in the **Tourism Tuesday** feature of the *Saipan Tribune*. Call in during Radio Tourism Trivia with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

Get ready to celebrate Tourism Month!



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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

SHEFA holds 'no record' of consultants

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance administrator Henry Hofschneider disclosed to the NMI Retirement Fund in its submitted packet last Friday that the office holds no record of SHEFA's former consultants.

"We couldn't find majority of the requested documents... therefore, I can say that SHEFA

holds no record of those," confirmed Hofschneider.

The Fund has requested a number of documentations and transactions between SHEFA and former consultants William Torres and Jesusa Dris in relation to their "double-dipping" case with the Fund.

The Fund mandated SHEFA to submit requested records by April 15. Hofschneider confirmed asking for an extension

to search for the materials. But he pointed out that as of Friday, no records on the two consultants were located.

Saipan Tribune learned that only one telephone message log was recorded by SHEFA for Torres from the period Jan. 1, 2005 through Jan. 1, 2011. The office was also unable to find documents directly or indirectly relating to all evaluation and recording materials.

Hofschneider also confirmed that no written justifications for sole contracts were located by his staff.

"No documents directly relating to negotiation, execution, maintenance, payment, and renewal of contracts with Mr. Torres or Marianas Pacific Network," indicated SHEFA's letter to the Fund.

SHEFA also noted no correspondences recorded for Torres.

No records on Jesusa Dris or the Dris Student Services also exist, according to Hofschneider.

"We're also unable to find records reflecting the physical presence of Jesus Dris on SHEFA premises from Jan. 1, 2005 to April 15, 2011. No records related to the transition of Dris from an employee to an 'independent contractor' during the 2005 and 2006 period," he added in his communication with the Fund.

The administrator, meantime, said he doesn't want to speculate as to "why" and "where" the requested documentations were not found in the SHEFA office and files.

Besides the Retirement Fund, SHEFA also received an open government act request from former lawmaker Tina Sablan on numerous documentations about the two consultants.

Hofschneider said Friday that the same information will be shared with Sablan.

Sablan said yesterday that her OGA request is part of an ongoing project to obtain "broad picture of the range of legal fees being paid by this government." She said similar OGA requests have been filed with many other government agencies.

Since SHEFA's inception in 2004, the agency did not hire an administrator or executive director, hiring instead consultants to run the scholarship program.

It was earlier disclosed by SHEFA that it paid each consultant \$40,000 each year for the services they rendered to the program. Records from the Department of Finance also revealed that since 2005, SHEFA posted about \$396,000 in professional and legal services for its programs including consultants.

CUC discloses components of customer's electric base rate

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. incorporated three components in the customer's electric base rate, which it will soon propose an increase on.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae said the three components that make up the base rate billing are energy cost, demand charge, and monthly customer charge.

"The energy cost is \$/kWh. Say, \$0.10/kWh. This covers most everything else associated with producing power such as power generation maintenance and operations, power transmission and distribution, overhead, and etc.," said Malae.

The demand charge, he said, is the cost of capacity and is usually charged to commercial or industrial customers.

"Say, \$25/kW peak load of the customer. We don't charge this separately [but other utilities in the Pacific do]," he said.

For the monthly customer charge, Malae explained that this covers meter reading, billing, and other administrative costs associated with servicing each customer account.

He explained that "even if the customer used zero kWh, if he is still connected to the system he would be charged with minimum amount because the bills would

still need to be prepared, meters read, and others. All these charges are intended for non-fuel expenses of the agency.

Malae said all components in the customers' billing are designed by the agency's consultants.

In the actual billing form issued to every customer, CUC indicated only two main areas of costs: leveled energy adjustment clause (LEAC) for fuel cost, and the electric base rate or non-fuel costs.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has rejected the proposed increased in electric base rate filed by CUC, citing

lack of proof that the recommendation is just and reasonable.

However, CUC is expected to file the same base rate hike petition soon with additional new evidence and testimonies.

Robert Torres, counsel for the commission's consultant Georgetown, confirmed earlier that it would be CUC who will file supplemental information to its electric base rate petition comes the commission's next assembly.

The Georgetown would simply review the submitted information of CUC and comment on the effect or impact of any additional data or information.

CUC proposed the current

electric base charge of \$5.60 monthly for residential customers to increase to \$7.28; while adjusting the base charge for commercial and government from \$7.67 monthly to \$9.97. The increase is meant to generate \$3.8 million in revenue to fund the agency's stipulated order requirements, repair and maintenance, as well as operational expenses.

Meantime, effective April 16 this year, the existing \$0.28125 per kilowatt-hour rate will become \$0.34426. It was only in January that the LEAC was adjusted from previous \$0.2446 per kilowatt-hour rate to \$0.28125 per kWh, or 14.6 percent hike.

MEDICAL REFERRAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE WINNERS

The Medical Referral Fundraising Raffle Ticket drawing for ANA ADA MAGOFNA was held on April 23, 2011. Listed below are the winners:

PRIZES:	AMOUNT	TICKET NO.	WINNER'S NAME:
Grand Prize	\$300	3934	Jose S. Torres
Baby Grand Prize	\$150.00	5514	No Name
1 st Prize	\$75.00	4489	Edward Cabrera
2 nd Prize	\$50.00	5246	No Name
3 rd Prize	Chafing Dish Set	351	T J Delacruz
4 th Prize	1-50# Calrose Rice	1363	Teresa Sablan
5 th Prize	\$25.00	3149	Tommy A.
6 th Prize	1-Case Chicken-33#	2817	No Name
7 th Prize	1-Case Spare-Ribs-20#	374	Hunter Delacruz
8 th Prize	1-Case Chicken-33#	5389	No Name
9 th Prize	1-Case Spare Ribs-20#	5590	Merced Ada
10 th Prize	1-120 load Gain Detergent	1673	Grace
11 th Prize	1-11" Electric Skillet	3752	Kei Lizama
12 th Prize	2-Cases Ichiban Soba	1402	Han Ying Tang

All prizes may be claimed by contacting either Louise Concepcion at telephone number 235-1988/1285 or Barbara Torres at telephone number 287-6463. Last day to claim prizes will be on May 07, 2011. Any question(s) pertaining to this announcement may contact telephone number (670) 235-1988/1285.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yuus Maase to all those who helped in this fundraising event.

Ginen as ANA ADA MAGOFNA, Children, and Family.

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New look Vanuatu government sworn in

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The new Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Serge Vohor, has announced his new cabinet, which includes a woman.

Mr Vohor was elected to succeed Sato Kilman after a successful vote of no confidence motion during an extraordinary session of parliament on Easter Sunday.

ter Sunday.

This is the Union of Moderates Party leader's fourth time as prime minister.

His new cabinet features Joshua Kalsakau of the Labour Party as Deputy Prime Minister, Vanua'aku Pati veterans Joe Natuman and Sela Molisa as Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade respectively.

The only female MP in Vanuatu's parliament, Eta Rory, an Independent MP, has been given the Agriculture portfolio.

The VP's Bakoa Kaltongga has been given the Finance portfolio and Willie Reuben Abel, also from the VP, takes on Health.

The Lands Ministry goes to Domi-

nique Morin of the Vanuatu Republican Party, Internal Affairs to Patrick Crowby of the National United Party, and Education to Charlot Salwai of Mr Vohor's UMP party.

The new Justice Minister is the Labour Party's Ioan Simon, who had been sacked from the portfolio last month over reports that he was siding with the opposition to topple Mr Kilman.

Surprisingly, the mover of Sunday's motion, VP president Edward Natapei, who had been Prime Minister until last December when Mr Kilman moved a successful motion to remove him, has no ministerial portfolio.

Mr Natapei says he wants to give the young generation of politicians the opportunity to take over the nation's responsibilities.

UOG adds project management to curricula

GUAM—The School of Business and Public Administration at the UGUAM_niversity of Guam incorporated project management concepts into course curricula recently with the modification of two courses: BA 441 Operations and Project Management and BA 632 Operations and Project Management.

"We made a strategic decision to highlight project management components in both undergraduate and graduate level courses," said Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration Anita Borja-Enriquez.

"It is imperative that our local undergraduate and graduate students have a

strong foundation in project management especially in light of the impending military buildup," said Karri Perez, assistant professor of Global Resources Management. "These courses will focus on the project management skill set and provide our students with the knowledge they need to lead and successfully complete projects."

Perez recently received her Project Management Professional (PMP) designation from the Project Management Institute, the world's leading not-for-profit membership association for the project management profession. Perez is one of only four PMP certified professionals on Guam. She teaches both

the undergraduate and graduate level courses that include the project management component.

According to a 2007 PricewaterhouseCoopers survey, 80 percent of high-performing projects use a credentialed project manager.

"Approximately 40 percent of project managers in the U.S. are slated to retire in four years," said Perez. "This means there will be high demand for knowledgeable project managers in the near future. Our students will now be prepared to obtain those jobs."

For more information contact Dr. Karri Perez at kperezini@gmail.com. (*UoG*)

NMI

From Page 1

Prior to the Guam vote, NMI residents made it clear they wanted to reunify with Guam.

Renewed talks of reunification were spawned by Guam Sen. Judith Guthertz's introduction yesterday of Bill 168-31, which would ask the people of Guam if they support reunification with CNMI residents.

The bill would put the non-binding question on the 2012 general election ballot.

The question would be: "Should Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Islands (Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands) reunify in the pursuit of a new political status? Yes or No."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan said it's not in the best interest of the CNMI to be reunified with Guam. Among other things, given the much bigger size of Guam than the CNMI, the CNMI will just become a "village" of Guam should both areas seek statehood.

Unlike the CNMI which is a self-governing territory with its own Constitution, Guam is an organized unincorporated territory of the United States, a colonial status that has not changed.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said while the topic of reunification had long been a point of discussion in the Marianas, he's not aware of any consultation specific to Guthertz's Bill 168-31.

"Understandably though, it is important to note that the bill would basically place a 'non-binding' question before Guam's voters in the next election," he said.

Demapan also said the idea of unification would require extensive research and review.

"Moreover, it would be premature to talk about what unification would mean at this point given that the Commonwealth government has maintained its stance that any attempt to explore and achieve reunification of Guam and the CNMI would have to be a decision that

is made by the people. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial believes that if reunification is to be pursued again, it should be done only at the will of the people by way of another plebiscite," he said.

The press secretary said the Fitial administration has always believed that the votes of the people are the "ultimate voice of the community."

"Thus, it is the only way we can wholly determine whether or not this is an idea that is supported by the people," he added.

Former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero, who voted in favor of reunification with Guam in the '60s before Guam rejected such reunification, said it is hard to decide on the matter if it's put to a vote today.

He said if it's statehood that Guam wants that's why it wants to reunify with the CNMI, then his response to a question on reunification would depend "on what's on the table, on what Guam would be offering."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) echoed Deleon Guerrero's sentiment. He said before the CNMI could also vote on reunification, there should be negotiation between the two territories on the merits and impact of such move on both of them.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers, has long been pushing for the creation of a commission to reexamine U.S.-CNMI political relations, particularly whether a "commonwealth" status is still desired by the people pursuant to the terms of the original Covenant agreement.

Torres said he initially supported reunification in the '60s, but when Guam voters rejected such, the Northern Marianas sought political status changes independent from Guam and this led to the negotiation of a Covenant agreement of Commonwealth status with the United States.

"I don't think Northern Marianas people will consider reunification at this time, but the best way to know that is by way of asking voters," Torres said.

Deleon Guerrero, who was a member of the 902 negotiations, said he would also recommend Guam to ex-

ercise first its political determination before even seeking reunification with the CNMI.

Guthertz bill says the results of the 2012 vote on the reunification question shall provide guidance to Guam's overall goal for its future.

In a statement yesterday, Guthertz said Guam voters' rejection of reunification with the CNMI during a 1969 plebiscite was a result of the "hard feelings" left over from World War II when the U.S. Territory of Guam was captured and occupied by the Japanese military, whereas the islands of the CNMI had been a colony of Japan since 1919.

One theory behind Guam people's rejection of reunification is that it came as a "payback" to the Northern Marianas Chamorros for their assistance to Japanese forces during the occupation of Guam, leading to the demise of a number of Guam Chamorros.

"Although political leaders in both Guam and the NMI understood the practical benefits of a larger population base and closer relationship with the United States, they were not able to overcome the hard feelings between Guam and Saipan left over from World War II and the Japanese occupation. The clearly perceived and anything but imaginary snub of rejection has rankled with Saipan residents to this day and various efforts to revive reunification over the years have failed," she said.

But Guthertz said "it's time to kick this discussion into the 21st Century."

She said over the years, both Guam and the CNMI have endured some difficult times, but the bill suggests that the present Guam military buildup, which envisions use of CNMI land-based facilities, may provide another motivation for the two unities to reunify.

"If the results favor reunification, the separation that occurred in 1898, when Guam was ceded to the United States, and the Northern Mariana Islands were sold by Spain to Germany, will finally be terminated and a unification of the people of the Marianas Archipelago will be accomplished and the overall direction set for purposes of moving forward," her bill says.

SHARK FIN

From Page 1

on April 28, it will already be illegal to sell or offer shark fin soup in the CNMI.

Benavente said the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety, as well as the Office of the Attorney General will be the ones to enforce the law and investigate matters related to the shark fin ban law.

"My message to restaurants and those that love shark fin soup is to be aware of the end of the 90-day grace period. While the law was signed on Jan. 27, it gave restaurants 90 days to

sell or dispose of their shark fins used for soup in the CNMI," he said in an interview yesterday.

The law imposes a fine of at least \$5,000 but not more than \$30,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months for those found in violation of the shark fin ban law.

The CNMI became the first U.S. territory to ban shark fins on Jan. 27. Benavente's introduction of the bill was inspired by Hawaii, the first U.S. state to make it illegal to possess, sell or distribute shark fins. The CNMI, in turn, inspired Guam to also ban shark fins.

While the CNMI law prohibits possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI, it allows catching of sharks for subsistence or non-commercial purposes.

ATTENDANCE

From Page 1

leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), seeks to expand the monetary incentive program to include other Asian tourism markets outside of Japan in the wake of the March 11 quake and tsunami in Japan.

Among the 20 House members, minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) had the most number of absences totaling four out of 12 sessions, followed by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) with three absences. Most of the absences were marked "excused."

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) each had two absences.

Those with one absence during the first three months of 2011 were Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

Among senators, only Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) had one absence each during the five Senate sessions held from January to March. The seven other senators had perfect attendance.

Despite the one with the most number of absences, Benavente said these were all because he needed to be off-island on official business.

He was absent during the Jan. 13 session when a surprise reorganization was made and he was nominated in absentia to become speaker to replace Tenorio. He lost to then Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan). Benavente said he was in Guam that day to attend the Pacific Islands Development Bank's quarterly board of directors meeting. He's a member of the PIDB board.

He was also absent during a Feb. 22 session when he was in Guam when lawmakers there were also discussing a shark fin ban bill. Guam got inspiration from Benavente's shark fin ban bill that

became a landmark law in January.

Benavente was also absent on March 1 because he was on Yap to attend a PIDB's board of governors' annual meeting.

He said even if he was absent the most in the first quarter, he was abreast with the pieces of legislation introduced and discussed. During the sessions he was present, he's always an active participant in discussions and debates.

"It's not because a member had perfect attendance, then he's considered the best lawmaker. It's in the output, in his or her ability to represent the interest of his constituents and the CNMI people in general on important bills," he said.

A few House members would always make it a point to be in the chamber during the roll call, but would leave later on during debates on bills and would not even vote on controversial bills.

Villagomez, for his part, said one of his absences was during the time when he had to attend a meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners as chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism. Weeks prior to that meeting, his bill establishing a revolving fund to pay the NAIC annual membership dues became the second CNMI law to be signed in 2011.

He said attendance is not the only measure of a good lawmaker, but lawmakers need to be present during sessions when they can.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who was one of those with perfect attendance, said he makes it a point to attend sessions but he said a perfect attendance is not a true measurement of a good lawmaker.

In the first quarter, House members introduced 44 bills, while the Senate introduced 10.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, during the time he was acting governor, signed 10 bills into public laws from January to March.

ON DOCUMENTS FILED IN MERRILL LYNCH CASE

'Retirement Fund board attacks retirees'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees filed last week court documents in the Merrill Lynch case, which the counsel for retirees described as hostile to the retirees' attempts to recover retirement fund money that they believe was lost due to the former investment consultant's inappropriate conduct.

Robert O'Connor, counsel for the retirees, disclosed this yesterday adding that the board's position is in contrast to its fiduciary duty to protect the best interests of retirees.

"This is astounding. The board is once again acting directly contrary to the retirees' best interest," said O'Connor.

Saipan Tribune learned that the board of trustees on April 20 filed an answer to the court which says

that the retirees have "no private right of action," are "not entitled" to "equitable remedies" and have no right to bring the case they have "no standing" to do so.

O'Connor described the Fund's position as incredible. The counsel indicated that the Fund trustees showed contradicting positions on the issue.

"The Retirement Fund has gone to the House of Representatives and lobbied against Senate Bill 17-43 by telling congressmen that it is unnecessary legislation, retirees can sue on their own behalf, but here in the court pleadings the truth of what they really believe comes out—the retirees do need S.B. 17-43 to pass to have standing to bring their

claims. They say one thing to the congressmen and the opposite to the court. Why do they tell the House the retirees have a private cause of action but the court they do not?" O'Connor said.

S.B. 17-31, or the Beneficiary Derivative Act, is a bill which would allow retirees to sue Merrill Lynch on behalf and for the benefit of the Retirement Fund.

In the submitted court documents, O'Connor also revealed that the Fund board also claimed that Merrill Lynch did nothing wrong but more than 100 other retirement funds have sued Merrill Lynch for much of the same things the CNMI retirees have sued for.

"They tell the court the re-

tirees have no injury, no damages. \$50 million is nothing? How disappointing it is for CNMI retirees to have to fight for their rights against the board whose job is to protect them," added O'Connor.

Merrill Lynch, along with the Fund trustees, was sued by three retirees in October 2009 for providing "bad advice" to the trustees, resulting in the collapse of its stock investments. Retirees Mario Taitano, Roman Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero in their lawsuit said they have basis to prove that Merrill Lynch acted "very badly" on providing advice to the Fund. Since then, the Fund trustees were encouraged by retirees to join them in a law-

suit against the former consultant but continuously refused.

Saipan Tribune learned that Merrill Lynch made about \$150,000 per year during its time as Fund consultant. The figure is equivalent to what has been signed in the contract which provides 3 1/2 basis points—or 3.5 percent of every 1 percent—of the total Fund investments.

Merrill Lynch has served the Fund since the program's inception in the 1980s.

The Fund has conducted a fiduciary audit to aid the board in deciding for the case.

The plaintiffs in the case filed against Merrill Lynch claimed the consultant overcharged the Fund and accused of negligence for providing "bad advises" to the trustees resulting in investment losses estimated at over \$150 million since October 2008.

Performers, exhibitors approve participation in SAFE Jamboree

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 10 musicians and performing groups as well as 22 exhibitors have confirmed participation for the inaugural Safe, Aware, Free, Empower or SAFE Jamboree.

The SAFE Jamboree, which culminates the observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is slated for April 30, from 2pm to 9pm at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center and Basketball Court.

It will feature a Walk Against Sexual Violence; various information booths that will conduct presentations, games and other fun activities; a FIBA 33 basketball competition; the Rock Against Sexual Violence Concert; and a raffle draw for only \$1 a ticket.

"The intention for the SAFE Jamboree is to gather the community to recognize [Sexual Assault Awareness Month] and to open dialogues on sexual violence amongst family and peers," said Kiki Igitol, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

program coordinator.

Igitol said that the SAAM committee, comprised of service providers and volunteers, have been "more than supportive and dedicated" in organizing the SAFE Jamboree.

"We want to help every member of our community prevent sexual violence. We want to send a message to perpetrators and offenders that as a community we will not tolerate their actions. We also want to show victims and survivors that as a community we support and believe them," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Igitol said they reached out and invited community leaders, the Public School System, faith-based and other community organizations, and various sports teams for the event.

Even local businesses, Igitol said, have also been generous in supporting the event despite hard economic times.

"I have high hopes that we will get a high number of community members supporting our event," added Igitol.

For more information, call 234-3878 or email safejamboree@gmail.com.

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, April 29, 2011 beginning at 9:00am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
 - 1. Investment Consultant Report
 - 2. Loan Administrator Report
 - 3. Legal Counsel Report
 - 4. Board Consultant Report
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. FY '10 Audit Report- Draft
 - 2. High Yield Loan Program
- V COMMUNICATIONS**
 - Fiduciary Liability Insurance
- VI NEW BUSINESS**
- VII MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

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Burglary victim helps cops in solving case

A victim of burglary case has helped police in an investigation that subsequently led to the arrest of one of two suspects.

The suspect, Joshua I. Martin, 21, was arrested in Kagman III on Friday night for forgery.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$1,000 cash bail for Martin's

temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing will be on May 2, 2011 at 9am.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that on April 7, 2011 a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety about a burglary and theft incident at his residence in San Antonio.

Norita said investigation showed that the suspect or sus-

pects entered the house through their laundry room by tearing the screen and removing three louvers.

The burglar or burglars stole an Oakley bag that contained a silver Dell laptop, two personal checks, and a check from the Northern Marianas College.

Also stolen was a black box that contained an electric ciga-

rette with a charger.

Detective Norita said that on the following day, April 8, he received a call from the victim that he's at New World Store where a surveillance camera captured the suspects.

Norita said a review of the footage showed that the suspects, who were later identified as Martin and Jose I. Duenas, received cash change after purchasing items using the stolen NMC check in the amount of \$60.91.

Norita said it was Martin who actually received the change, while Duenas was standing next to him.

Norita said the victim then

informed him that Martin and Duenas were standing in front of the Afetnas Square looking toward the store.

Norita said he and another detective approached Martin and Duenas at Sun Leader Store.

Norita said the other detective procured from Martin a plastic bag containing items purchased from New World and an envelope that contained one of the victim's stolen personal checks in the amount of \$160.94.

The bag also contained the victim's black box with E-Health cigarette indicated on the cover, a USP charger, four plastic cigarette butts, and a zip-lock bag that had three brown cigarette butts.

Norita said that during his

interview with Martin at the Department of Corrections on April 9, the defendant confessed to signing the NMC check.

Norita said Martin claimed he found the E-Health cigarette box that contained a personal check in the amount of \$160.94 and an NMC check in the amount of \$60.91.

The detective said in his interview with Duenas at DPS on April 14, Duenas stated that on April 7 Martin stopped by his grandmother's house in Afetnas and showed him an electronic cigarette device with a charger.

As of yesterday, Duenas was not arrested. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal told the court yesterday that Duenas is a co-defendant. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

3 suspected 'ice' traffickers fall

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested on Thursday three suspected traffickers of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

George Masga, 41, was arrested in As Lito, while his alleged supplier was apprehended in Susupe, for allegedly selling "ice" near William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Saipan Tribune opted not to disclose the name of the alleged supplier as he was not taken to court yet.

Masga and the alleged supplier were arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance, trafficking of a controlled substance, conspiracy to trafficking a controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school zone.

In the second case, Cunyan Ma, 39, also known as Ma, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and

illegal possession of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$60,000 and \$50,000 cash bail for the temporary release of Masga and Ma respectively.

Preliminary hearing for Masga will be May 2, 2011 at 9am. Preliminary hearing for Ma will be on May 3, 2011 at 1:30pm.

Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that on April 4, 2011, two detectives met with a "cooperating source" who disclosed about a man active in selling "ice."

Camacho said that on April 12, 2011, members of the Task Force, using a "cooperating source" managed to purchase .10 grams of "ice" worth \$50 from Masga and the alleged supplier.

It was Masga who allegedly handed the "ice" to the "cooperating source" outside the alleged supplier's residence in

Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho said when the "cooperating source" asked where the supplier was, Masga stated he was in the room and that it was the supplier who gave the "ice" to Masga.

In Ma's case, Detective Camacho said that on Thursday, members of the Task Force and Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division, were able to buy \$70 worth of "ice" from Ma using a "cooperating defendant" in Chalan Kanoa.

Ma was later identified as the girlfriend of Ignacio Deleon Guerrero Sr. She is also renting a condo room in Chalan Piao where she is also allegedly active in selling "ice."

On Dec. 16, 2010, the jury found Deleon Guerrero guilty of conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). His sentencing will be on May 2, 2011 at 3:30pm. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

PSS issues go signal for schools network project

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After several months of delay, the Public School System's network project will finally move forward following the ruling issued by the Office of Public Auditor early this month.

PSS procurement officer Robert Florian recently issued a notice-to-proceed with the work to Pac Star Communications, the winning contractor for the project that involves the design, installation of routing/switching equipment project for the public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Saipan Tribune learned that request for proposal for

the project was announced by PSS on July 2010. Two of the three losing bidders filed protests on the decision citing numerous allegations, including employing favoritism and bias toward the winning contractor.

It was in February when Marianas Wireless and Megabyte of Saipan filed separate protests but both their complaints were denied by PSS. The two firms elevated their appeals to OPA, which also rendered a denial decision last April 7.

Both companies also claimed that the contract was flawed since the winning contractor did not have a business license at the time of proposal

submission.

Florian, in his letter to Pac Star Communication's Ken Miller, said the company can now proceed with the work effective April 7 when the OPA rendered the decision.

He advised the contractor that "we will interpret your beginning of performance under this contract as an express commitment on your part to address and resolve any and all CNMI tax liabilities you may have incurred [under the contract] with PSS," stated Florian.

He advised the contractor to coordinate with the system's E-rate coordinator for further clarification and other questions on the project.



April 27, 2011
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TOWN HALL 2011

Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

672 to benefit from child care fund for FY2011

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has already reached the required enrollment

level of 672 qualified children for the Child Care Development Fund for fiscal year 2011.

DCCA Secretary Faisao said that as of March 2011, 522 qualified children enrolled in the program specifically devoted to child care services and quality.

"Last week Thursday, the enrollment registration was opened to 150. The program is now closed as the department reached its funded enrollment level," Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* via email.

Faisao said the CCDF is a program authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and Section 418 of the

Social Security Act that assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training and education.

According to Faisao, some \$5 billion in CCDF funding has been made available to states, territories, and tribes for FY2010 and FY2011.

The secretary said DCCA was awarded \$1.8 million in funding in FY2010 and another \$1.89 million for FY2011.

Faisao said subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates, vouchers, grants, and

contracts with providers.

"Parents may select a child care provider that satisfies any applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements," he added.

These requirements, Faisao said, must address prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations; building and physical premises safety; and minimum health and safety training.

As the lead agency for CCDF, Faisao said DCCA provides training and grants to providers, improved monitoring and compensation projects and other innovative programs.

"DCCA... is making systemic investments, such as currently developing quality rating and improvement systems and

professional development systems," he added.

Faisao said a minimum of 4 percent of the CCDF funds should be used to improve the quality of child care and other services to parents such as resource and referral counseling on the selection of child care providers.

He noted that DCCA uses 8 percent of the funds for its quality initiatives.

SBPA Speaker Series features Capt. Michael Uva

Michael "Mike" Uva (SC, USN, OIC0FISC Det Marianas) is the featured speaker for the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration on Speaker Series on Thursday,

April 28, at 2pm in the IT&E Lecture Hall. Capt. Uva is a member of the SBPA Advisory Council.

His presentation is entitled "Joint Military Logistics: Responsive, relevant, and agile in providing logistics across the full Range of Military Operations; case in point-Operation Tomodachi Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief in Japan." The public is invited to attend. (PR)



Uva

MMAC committee looking for bands, singers, dancers, other entertainers

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is looking for bands, singers, dancers, and other entertainers to take part in the largest cancer fundraising event in the CNMI.

The 2011 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on May 13-14 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The MMAC is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association—a volunteer-led non-profit organization which ensures all funds raised are spent locally on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient assistance, and other cancer-related services.

All groups or individuals who are interested in supporting this worthy cause by performing live are encouraged to sign up for this important event.

For more information, contact 2011 MMAC entertainment committee chairman L.J. Castro at 483-1027 or via email at lj-mamis@gmail.com or lj27@hotmail.com.

The 2011 MMAC committee is inviting all cancer survivors or those currently undergoing

cancer treatment to the complimentary dinner to be held in their honor at the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer. Each survivor who registers will be given a unique medallion commemorating their fight against cancer along with a free T-shirt.

To register for the event contact 2011 MMAC survivor committee chairwoman Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or 285-5124 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer is brought to you by title sponsors Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to Bank of Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IP&E/Shell Marianas, Marianas Health Services, MMAC Golf Tournament Organizers, Saipan Golfers Association, Saipan Images and Younis Art Studios.

For more information on the 2011 MMAC, please contact overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero at 989-2496 or via email at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com or visit www.cca-marianas.org. (PR)

Man'amko council eyes digital yearbook

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To have a lasting memory of their moments, the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council is looking at creating a digital yearbook for all the congregates at the Aging Center.

Council members unanimously approved to have the digital yearbook project by the end of their term during their meeting.

Walter Manglona, Aging Center program coordinator, said the project will take the

yearbook project "to the next level" by having it in a DVD form for the *man'amko* to purchase.

"It will be a good memorabilia for all the *man'amko*," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said each of the congregates at the Aging Center will have about two minutes to be videotaped wherein they will have the chance to talk about themselves.

Manglona said he will be providing his services—directing and editing the video—for free.

He said the council will just have to purchase the DVDs so that those who want to buy a copy of the digital yearbook will pay a certain fee.

In that way, Manglona said the digital yearbook can also generate funds for the council.

Council president Teresita Sorroza said the digital yearbook will also serve as a souvenir for the family members of the *man'amko*.

"It's a great way to look back to what we have and keep the memories alive," added Sorroza.

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SHRM presents 'Understanding workers' compensation law'

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management is pleased to announce its April general membership meeting topic "Understanding Workers' Compensation Law," which will be presented by Frank D. Cabrera, director of the CNMI Workers Compensation Commission. The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club (Charley's Cabaret) on Thursday, April 28, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the application of Workers Compensation Law in the CNMI, which was enacted in 1989 and became known as the CNMI Workers' Compensation Program. The main purpose of the WC Law is

to provide financial protection for both employers and employees from the catastrophic effects of work related injuries, illnesses, or deaths. It is a social insurance plan that compensates employees for disabilities incurred from work related injuries regardless of fault. It is also a no-fault insurance program, solely paid by the employer.

Cabrera will explain the Workers' Compensation (WC) Law and discuss important topics such as:

1. Who is the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) and what do they do?
2. Are all employers required to purchase WC insurance?
3. What are the employer reporting requirements for any work related injuries, illnesses or death?

4. What benefits does WC insurance provide?

5. What does WC insurance cost and who provides it?

6. What are the consequences of not purchasing WC insurance and filing with the WCC?

7. How do WC claims get filed and processed?

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting SHRM CNMI President, Polly DLG Masga, at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (SHRM)

Judiciary prepares for Law Week

The CNMI Judiciary is preparing for Law Week, which will span a period from the last week of April into the first week of May. Law Week activities to be held at the Guma' Hustisia will include the Law Day Proclamation signing at 8:30am on Thursday, April 28, and involve the Commonwealth Judiciary legal staff, including justices and judges, in a broad range of activities which include the Inaugural Law Day Poster and Essay Contest, the "We the People" and "Mock Trial" national competition preparations and the Attorney Generals' Cup.

For the first time, a Law Day poster and essay contest will be conducted during Law Week. This year's inaugural theme is defense representation of the unpopular accused, with a focus on the defense services performed by John Adams, the second U.S. president, and other prominent defense lawyers throughout American history. Students from fifth and sixth grades can submit posters examining this theme while students in seventh and eighth grades will write essays. Both public and private elementary and junior high schools can participate. Submissions due April 26 will be reviewed by the justices and judges and awards and prizes will be given to the most outstanding at a Law Week awards ceremony at the Supreme Court.

This Spring Saipan Southern High School students, winners of the local "We the People" competition and Marianas Baptist Academy students, winners of the local "Mock Trial" competition will be going to their respective national finals competition to be held in Washington, D.C. and Phoenix, Arizona at the end of April and the beginning of May. Judiciary law clerks who have volunteered their time as coaches during the local competitions will assist the Commonwealth's teams to

these events as they make their final preparations.

Whereas the annual mock trial competition has been a mainstay in the Commonwealth for over a decade, the "We the People" competition is only in its third year. The program, sponsored by the Public School System, gives students comprehensive instruction on the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. Like the mock trial competition, "We the People" is intended to strengthen participants' analytical skills and presentation abilities.

On Thursday, April 28, the 27th Annual Attorney Generals' Cup Speech Competition will be held in the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom in Susupe, Saipan. Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham will be the official host for the competitive forum in which students give speeches on law and government in the CNMI. This year's participants from local public and private high schools are asked to consider and speak to the positive and negative aspects of CNMI independence versus remaining a commonwealth of the United States. The public is invited to attend, and an awards luncheon will follow the presentations.

The Attorney Admissions Ceremony will also be held during Law Week. Four applicants passed the February bar examination and they will officially take the oath of attorney at the Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 27, at 11am.

The CNMI Judiciary maintains a year-round resolve to broaden the understanding of the judicial process and the rule of law among students of all ages. Speaking engagements and guided tour requests of the Guma Hustisia, from teachers and principals of public and private schools are welcomed. Arrangements can be made by calling 236-9716. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteers needed for HPV, cervical cancer focus group

The Department of Public Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program requests the assistance of 20 volunteers (10 women and 10 men) to participate in a focus group discussion and survey that will cover the human papillomavirus vaccine and cervical cancer screening in the CNMI.

The CCC program is specifically seeking individuals who fit any of the following three categories:

- Women who are 21 - 65 years of age;
- Male partners of women ages 21-65 years;
- Parents or guardians of girls (ages 9-18) who are eligible to receive the HPV vaccination

Names and responses of all focus group participants will be kept confidential. This is a voluntary project; lunch and gas vouchers will be provided to all participants, however. The focus group discussion is scheduled for April 27, 2011 from 8:30am to 12pm at the Department of Public Health, Secretary's Conference Room.

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. Interested individuals are asked to register for the focus group discussion on or before April 25, 2011. (PR)

Support meeting for cancer survivors, caregivers

All cancer survivors, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next support meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting will begin with a presentation on the rights of cancer survivors and caregivers in the workplace, by Tom Thornburgh, project specialist for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. NMPASI attorney Jeanne Rayphand will also be present to answer questions.

The NMPASI presentation will be followed by breakout discussions in two groups: survivors and caregivers.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (CCA)

Team Aschoscho to host MMAC softball tournament

Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Aschoscho will be hosting a co-ed softball tournament fundraiser from April 30 to May 1, 2011, at the Capital Hill baseball field. The requested donation to register is \$150, and the deadline to register is April 29, 2011. All proceeds will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information, contact Jerome delos Santos at 989-7456, or Nadia Saralu at 288-1458.

The Aschoscho softball tournament is one of a series of fundraising events hosted by teams of volunteers and leading up to the main Marianas March Against Cancer event, which is scheduled for May 13-14, 2011 at Hopwood Junior High School. The Marianas March Against Cancer is the signature fundraising program for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a nonprofit organization that provides support services for cancer patients and survivors, and promotes cancer awareness, screening, and risk reduction through community outreach programs and partnerships. (CCA)

Reminder to CNMI cancer survivors

All CNMI cancer survivors are asked to contact Team Courage chair Nora Sablan at FHP Clinic to register for the Marianas March Against Cancer Survivors Dinner on May 13, 2011 at Hopwood. Call Nora at 235-0994 or email norasablan@gmail.com to confirm attendance. (CCA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 26, 1999

House prioritizes CIP appropriation

The House of Representatives will prioritize for appropriation the next batch of capital improvement projects currently being drawn up by the Tenorio administration, Speaker Diego T. Benavente assured on Friday. He said some "technical amendments" to the initial CIP bill will be made to ensure funds for projects on Rota and Tinian which will comprise the second partial allocation of some \$154 million in available federal and local funds. But Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes, echoing dismay by his colleagues on the line-item veto on the initial bill, raised fear that passage of the second list in the upper house may face strong opposition.

Gov. backs audit of sewerline project

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is backing the proposal of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to conduct a financial audit of the initial contract for the construction of the sewerline, but warned officials that such review should not impede the resumption of the project. CUC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority recently agreed to share the cost of settling the \$750,000 in unpaid obligation to the Pacific Drilling Ltd., putting the critical project back on track after almost a year it was halted. Under the agreement, the government-owned utility firm will shoulder \$400,000 of the amount, while the rest by the ports authority. However, CUC said it wanted a financial review before it pays its share, a move that could further delay the project.

April 26, 2000

Tudela eyes Saipan mayoral post

Former Congressman Juan Borja Tudela yesterday announced his intention to seek the nomination of the Democratic Party for the Saipan Mayor during next year's elections. He has written to party chairman Carlos S. Camacho to formally inform him of his bid, about 19 months before the November 2001 elections. Mr. Tudela, a 64-year old retired government employee and a two-term member of the House of Representatives in the 1980's, is the third person to have announced their bid for the mayoralty post on Saipan in recent weeks. Earlier, Henry I. Sablan has sought nomination of the Republican Party, while Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero has said he would decide whether to run in the forthcoming polls under the Democratic Party.


EPA assails US Army Corps for slow action

Apparently exasperated by its slow action on the clean-up of Tanapag village, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has pressed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer in Honolulu to take more definitive steps in ensuring that the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the northern coastal village in Saipan will be removed. In a letter to Lt. Col. Wally Walters, district engineer in Honolulu, EPA manager for Pacific Insular Areas Norman Lovelace reminded the official that his office is the lead federal agency that must perform all the necessary remediations in consultation with the CNMI government and other federal agencies. "There is a continued growing discontent with the pace and nature of the federal response to this overall situation by the community and the Commonwealth government," said Mr. Lovelace.

April 26, 2001

Mortgage Credit Program to benefit low-income families

The seven-member House Committee on Commerce and Tourism have signified their support to a proposed initiative that is seen to boost low or moderate income families' capacity to own their dream homes. In a standing committee report submitted to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, committee members recommended for the legislation's approval. The proposed act which seeks to establish in the CNMI a Mortgage Credit Certificate Program for qualified applicants and first-time home-buyers was a concept derived from the US Congress' 1984 Tax Reform Act. Its purpose, according to lawmakers, is to provide housing assistance to families of low and moderate income.




CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Joey Duenas Mostales for completing your student teaching at San Antonio. Great job and we love you! Greetings from our Neni girl Kate, Baby JC, Josh, Nomi, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy sweet 16th birthday to Loleen Grace Tomokane. We love and miss you!
With love, Grandma Lo and Grandpa Eb.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NMC Charter Day set for May, vendors invited

The Northern Marianas College 30th Annual Charter Day will be held on Friday, May 6, at the As Terlaje campus from 4pm to 10pm.

The NMC Charter Day is an annual celebration of the College's service to the community as an institution of higher learning.

This year's theme is "Celebrating 30 years of Sailing." The event will feature entertainment favorites such as Battle of the Bands, Marianas Idol, Dance Crew Competition Challenge, and Miss Pagua.

There will also be other special performances and

contests. The students, staff, and faculty of NMC are inviting the entire CNMI to celebrate the college's 30th year with a day of great food and entertainment.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), game booths, retail(arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on Thursday, May 5. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Also

there will be prizes for the booths that win the best décor and best dish competitions.

The booth fee is \$150 with \$50 of the fee to be refunded upon clean up of the booth space post-event. Club booths are \$50 and also include a \$25 refund upon booth space clean up.

For application forms for vendors contact 234-5498 ext. 1300. For more information please log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call Rose Pangelinan Charter Day chair at 234-5498 ext. 1251 or email rosep@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

FOA to present *The Three Musketeers*

Most people have heard of, read, or seen a movie of Alexandre Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, published in 1844. The 17th century tale follows young d'Artagnan's quest to join the French royalty's guard, the Musketeers. While new on the scene, d'Artagnan meets the Three Musketeers, already famous—or, in some circles, infamous—for their courage

and many exploits. He joins this group, and finds himself caught up in a fascinating society full of daring adventures, sword fights, intrigue, and much more. The book led to several theater plays, various musical stage adaptations, and 34 movies and television series, not to mention the various sequels in books, stage, and film. This is a classic tale, both in

print and on the stage, a story time-honored and still worth its weight in entertainment value today.

Recognizing the captivating and charming nature of the story, the Friends of the Arts, with the help of Willis Hall, is bringing to Saipan a comedic and highly amusing version of *The Three Musketeers* this coming weekend on April 29, 30, and May

1. In this version, FOA is taking over the play last minute from the great Comdie Francais (French National Theater), and is having some difficulty with French names, sword fighting up to standard, and replacing 200 actors from the Comdie Francais.

The audience is drawn in, using a "Theater in the Round" method of presenting the tale, all

to the great amusement of both actors and audience alike. Hall's adaptation of *The Three Musketeers*, as presented by FOA, is sure to inspire many laughs and delight audiences of all ages. This play will be performed at the Multi-Purpose Center, and is the final performance for those carrying a FOA season ticket. For more information on performance times and prices, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (FOA)

Thespian scholarship application deadline extended

The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands offers scholarship assistance to students who will major or minor in dramatic arts, performing arts, communicative arts or teaching with an emphasis on theatre at college or university. Local scholarship funds from TWPI are matched by the Educational Theater Association, who manages the scholarship.

This year's scholarship is only open to seniors graduating in the

spring of 2011. The deadline previously set for this year's scholarship was inadvertently placed on Easter Sunday. Therefore, the deadline has been extended by the TWPI board of directors. All applications with supporting documentation must be turned into Harold Easton at Marianas High School, room D 101 by 2pm on Friday, April 29, 2011.

Applications are available from Easton or any Thespian

troupe director or board member. Scholarship awards are a minimum of \$400 and upward.

Scholarship eligibility criteria are as follows:

- High School Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

- Acceptance for study in a performing arts related program at a post secondary institution. Such a program would include a major or minor in a Theater Arts

or Communication field; an education degree with an emphasis on Theater Arts is acceptable.

- Membership in the International Thespian Society by both the student and the high school the applicant attends.

- Minimum of three years theatre or other performing arts experience.

- Minimum of two years Thespian Troupe or Chapter experience.

- An essay stating how the applicant will use his/her performing arts education upon graduation from the college or university.

The Educational Theatre Association will release the scholarship to the college or university that the student will attend after verification of enrollment.

Students who receive this scholarship will submit a transcript to the Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands at the end of their first year of college or university attendance. (PR)

Kilili to hear concerns at Town Hall meeting

Almost halfway into the year and the Office of U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is taking a moment to listen for feedback and concerns from CNMI residents.

The public is invited to attend the town hall meeting to be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Amphitheater on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 from 6pm to 8pm.

There, Sablan will be taking questions about issues important to NMI residents, and asking for input on legislation currently before Congress.


"The town hall meeting is not only a great way to share information with what is going on in our office, but also a way for me to hear about what concerns or priorities our residents feel we should take," said Sablan.

"I invite everyone to attend and participate in what I hope will be a very open and candid dialogue," said Sablan.

For more information about the town hall meeting, email kilili@mail.house.gov or call Congressman Sablan's district office at 323-2647/8. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
 Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-008

Renovation Of Government House #1354 – LIDS & Enforcement Office, CNMI Department of Labor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works 9DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Renovation of Government House # 1353 LIDS Enforcement Office**, Capitol Hill, Mednilla Avenue, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 12, 2011 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Project Site, Gov't Bldg. #1354-Mednilla Avenue. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 2, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW11-IFB-008". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 05, 2011, and must be received no later than May 12, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 09, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid account must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).


The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the Contract price for contracts greater than \$25, 000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the element of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/MARTIN C. SABLAN
 Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
 Director of Procurement and Supply



Support Meeting

for Cancer Survivors & Caregivers

All cancer survivors, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next support meeting

On Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at Fiesta Resort, starting at 5:30pm.

This month's support meeting will begin with a presentation on the rights of cancer survivors and caregivers in the workplace, by Tom Thornburgh, Project Specialist for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc (NMPASI). NMPASI is the designated disability law center of the CNMI, and its mission is to protect the civil, legal, and human interests of persons with disabilities. NMPASI attorney Jeanne Rayphand will also be present to answer questions.

The NMPASI presentation will be followed by break-out discussions in two groups: survivors and caregivers.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728.

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

US should resettle Uighurs held at Guantanamo

The Supreme Court last week ended the quest of five exonerated Guantanamo detainees who are seeking release in the United States. The defeat for the Uighurs, members of a Muslim minority group in China, shouldn't be the end of the story. The problem is that other paths to settling them here are strewn with obstacles.

The Uighurs' story is a poignant one: They had traveled to Afghanistan, where they joined training camps run by a Uighur separatist group. After the United States launched a military offensive in Afghanistan, they fled to Pakistan, where they were swept up by Pakistani and other coalition forces and brought to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Nine years later, they continue to languish in prison, although they were eventually cleared of being enemy combatants and were approved for resettlement. They sued the United States in hopes of being admitted to this country, where there is a vibrant Uighur community.

A federal judge ordered the release of the Uighurs and their resettlement in the United States. But an appeals court reversed the ruling, holding that decisions about admitting foreigners belonged to Congress and the executive branch. The Uighurs appealed, but the Supreme Court has now declined to hear the case. Four justices issued a statement emphasizing that the Uighurs were given an opportunity to resettle in other countries, and held out the slender hope of a different result if a receiving country reneged.

The United States has a moral obligation to accommodate the Uighurs, whom the government acknowledges are victims of mistaken identity. But if that is to happen, it won't be by court order. The problem is that other avenues to their resettlement are blocked as well. Congress has passed (and the president signed) legislation to prevent the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to the United States. And the Uighurs can't apply for political asylum because they're not in the United States or on a border, even though the Supreme Court has ruled that U.S. law applies in Guantanamo.

These restrictions would have been trumped if the Supreme Court had reinstated the trial judge's ruling ordering resettlement. The court's unwillingness to do so—or even to hear the case—compounds the injustice of the Uighurs' imprisonment.

Some believe the president could use his inherent powers to unilaterally order the release of the Uighurs and their resettlement in this country, but that's a doubtful prospect. The Uighurs' hopes now rest with Congress, which needs to recognize that not every detainee at Guantanamo is an enemy of the United States; some are long-suffering victims of American neglect.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.



Egyptian revolution likely to have long-term ripple effect

The early wave of excitement inspired by the Arab uprisings has given way to unease, both here and in the Middle East.

Most of the revolts look unlikely to end well. When Yemen's leader goes, tribal conflict seems the likely outcome. If Syria's dictator falls, ethnic and sectarian bloodshed will probably follow. No one seems to have a clue about who can hold Libya together after Moammar Gadhafi.

And skeptics are even skewering the prospects for positive change in Egypt, the bellwether of the region, arguing that the idealistic youths who deposed an autocrat will have little impact on the political outcome.

Typical is Ian Bremmer, the thoughtful president of Eurasia Group, who warned, "We should not go looking at Egypt as if it's a successful revolution." He said we should view it as "a managed transition," in which any new elected government will be weak and the military will remain the most powerful player.

I beg to differ. I think an important revolution has occurred in Egypt, one that will have ripple effects throughout the region (although it may be years before we see the full impact). I refer not to a revolutionary shift in Egypt's political system, but to a revolution in thinking—to be specific, in the way Egyptians think about their relationship to government.

"For the first time, we are feeling that our problems must be solved by us, not by Americans, or by God," said Hossam Bahgat, the dynamic young executive director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, a human-rights advocacy group in Cairo.

Anyone who has spent years focused on the Arab world will know that such a statement of personal responsibility for one's future is revolutionary indeed.

Throughout the Middle East, a passive public has tended to attribute its powerlessness against autocrats to conspiracies of the West or Israel, or to unseen forces. "We were like donkeys" was a phrase I heard repeatedly in Cairo's working-class cafes from men trying to explain why they had thought it pointless to push for reforms before January. For decades — the living memory of most Arabs — leadership was left to kings, emirs, generals, or dictators, while the public had no confidence in its ability to effect change.

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Tahrir Square rebellion (preceded by the Tunisian upheaval) changed that thought pattern among hundreds of thousands of Egyptian young people. And their elders have taken notice. Another phrase I heard repeatedly from Egyptians was "the young people taught us" that things can change.

Moreover, because the Egyptian revolt ended relatively quickly—unlike the extended chaos in Libya and elsewhere—people have had time to process its meaning. Yes, the military will remain the preeminent power, even after parliamentary elections are held in August. But the military understands that Egyptians now expect a greater say in how they are ruled.

During the last few weeks, in an effort to preempt the continuing Tahrir Square demonstrations on Fridays, the generals have made a series of stunning midweek concessions. "We call this the Thursday gift," Bahgat told me with a smile during a visit to Washington last week. The latest was the arrest and interrogation of two sons and several aides of former President Hosni Mubarak.

The "Thursday gifts" indicate that the generals understand the people expect their grievances to be addressed.

Bahgat, a political science graduate and former journalist, understands the difficulty of translating the Tahrir Square youth's cachet into political power. In the new political atmosphere, numerous new liberal and social-democratic parties are sprouting, which may split the votes of the newly energized youth and their supporters.

Meantime, many Egyptians and Westerners worry that the Muslim Brotherhood, or Ikhwan, will do well at the polls because it has

See EGYPTIAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is everybody happy?

How happy are you? How happy is the country? This very important question has gradually gained attention over the years, occupying the attention not only of psychologists and New Age gurus, but of economists, political scientists and government leaders.

The field of happiness studies is booming with researchers hard at work taking our emotional temperature, figuring out how we feel and trying to understand why.

The most recent results of Gallup's regular survey on well-being around the world shine a light on the mysterious phenomenon of national happiness.

Gallup conducted interviews with people in 124 different countries, asking them to rank their lives on a scale from 1 to 10. Those with scores of 7 or higher were classified as "thriving," in contrast to the less-happy categories "struggling" and, the worst one, "suffering."

The sad news is that an average of only 21 percent across the 124 countries qualified as thriving. This is not a very happy planet.

Majorities reported thriving in only 19 countries. The happiest country, with 79 percent thriving, is the usually dark and cold Denmark. The least happy, with just 1 percent thriving, is perennially sunny Chad in Africa.

Most countries where most people thrive were, not surprisingly, rich nations. But not all.

The United States came in at No. 12, with 59 percent thriving. That's more than most, but worse than other countries with more poverty and unemployment, and with much less wealth than America, whose people are among the world's most affluent.

It's not surprising that rich countries such as Sweden, Canada,

Australia and the Netherlands made the list. But it is stunning what a high number of Latin American countries ranked among the Happy 19, despite high rates of poverty, crime and joblessness. Among the Latin American nations with happy majorities, in percentages, are Venezuela (64), Panama (61), Costa Rica (58), Brazil (57) and Mexico (52.)

If you think peace, security and a predictable future bring happiness, you wouldn't have expected Israel to land in seventh place, ahead of the United States, with 63 percent thriving.

And if you see democracy as key to happiness, you'd be surprised to find the resolutely nondemocratic United Arab Emirates and Qatar at No. 16 and 19, respectively. The emirates don't allow their people the vote, but they are extremely wealthy and the government takes good care of the population.

Asian countries with booming economies and millions of people rushing out of poverty into prosperity don't have a lot of happiness to show for their success. Only 12 percent reported thriving in China.

Social scientists agree that money does help bring happiness, up to a point. Once people reach a certain level of affluence, additional wealth does little to improve well-being.

Many factors play a role, including cultural attitudes. Perhaps that explains why happiness defies poverty in parts of Latin America, and wealth cannot defeat pessimism in parts of Eastern Europe. But research also shows that happiness can be enhanced by education, good healthcare, strong relationships and political empowerment. Religious individuals are often happier, but the happiest nations tend to be secular.

Until recently, most governments and politicians had not con-

By FRIDA GHITIS

McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her email at fghitis@gmail.com.



cerned themselves much with their people's happiness, a rather vague notion, preferring instead to focus on economic growth and measurable concepts such as the Gross Domestic Product—or GDP. That, however, is very slowly changing.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, a Conservative, said something that even a hard-boiled capitalist couldn't deny. "It's time we admitted," he said, "that there's more to life than money." Cameron said it's time to start looking at what he called GWB, general well-being. GWB, he explained, "can't be measured by money or traded in markets. It's about the beauty of surroundings, the quality of our culture .??. and the strength of relationships." He pronounced the improvement of well-being as "the central political challenge of our times."

It was America that gave the world the revolutionary concept that "the pursuit of happiness" is one of the most fundamental of all human rights. And yet, which American politician would be brave enough to dare call for a government to ask the entire nation, How happy are we? And, even more daring, Should the government aim to make people happy?

Clock ticking on UN resolution

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit Japan in March were only the last in a row of natural disasters rocking the Far East recently. In 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami left more than 200,000 people dead and missing. The 2006 Java earthquake and tsunami were disastrous as well.

Why was the death toll in Japan, which suffered no less awesome disaster, so low, compared to the other cases? Because Japan was prepared. It had connected itself to early warning systems, and had built effective means of relaying the vital information to the public in time.

People in Japan received the early warning 30 minutes before the tsunami hit their shores. Not much, but enough to get in the car and flee. If they were given an hour alert, they might have collected some valuables or souvenirs dear to their hearts.

Israelis, on the other hand, are given no less than a five-month tsunami alert. In September, the United Nations General Assembly is expected to accept Palestine as an independent state in the pre-1967 borders. The move will put Israel in an awkward position of an illegal occupier of Palestinian lands.

In light of this, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak warned in March that "(w)e are facing a political tsunami of which most members of the public are unaware." According to Barak, who is not

known to lose his calm easily, "it would be wrong to ignore this tsunami ... Israel's de-legitimization is in sight. It's very dangerous and requires action."

Well said, except that Barak forgot that he wasn't a backseat driver, but the one who, together with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was actually holding Israel's steering wheel. Let's say he did his share and sounded the alarm. What, then, is Netanyahu doing?

If Netanyahu believes, like one of his predecessors, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, that time is running in favor of Israel, then doing nothing is a wise policy. Let the Arabs spin their wheels as always on the wrong issues, while Israel prospers. If, on the other hand, Netanyahu subscribes to the words of Barak, his close friend and former commander in the IDF elite unit, then doing nothing in face of an impending tsunami is irresponsible.

Netanyahu's knee-jerk reaction was to do what he always does when he is pressed, namely, to go to Washington. Not to the White House, mind you. Forget about the amazing relationship and personal friendship between President Bush and Prime Ministers Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, or between President Clinton and the late Yitzhak Rabin. Netanyahu, being aware of the frustration of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with the stalled peace process, prefers to go to the House, where, backed by a pro-Israeli Republican majority, he

said Bahgat, "from students, from young people in Aswan and Asyut (in upper Egypt), and Egyptians overseas" who want to help with the August parliamentary elections.

He hopes that by July, the many new parties that have grown out of the revolt will join in a broad coalition, with the heroes of Tahrir Square out front. "If there is a list of 'candidates of the revolution,' people will vote for them," he said, and I believe he is correct.

Yet even if the August elections disappoint and Egypt's economy fails to revive, Bahgat believes the situation can't return to the status quo ante.

There has been a fundamental transformation in Egyptian thinking, he said: Young people have "decided to be part of the solution. The guarantee against sliding back is to maintain the mobilization of this new generation."

I think he's on to something. The real Egyptian revolution—which could become the role model for the region—will happen when people believe they can shape their lives after generations of fear and passivity. There are strong signs that revolution is at hand.

By URI DROMI

McClatchy Newspapers

Uri Dromi writes about Israeli affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send him email at dromi@mishkenot.org.il.



can secure a U.S. veto in the U.N. Security Council, when the Palestinian motion is put on the table.

Securing the American veto is important, because a resolution by the General Assembly is meaningless, unless the Security Council endorses it, and there, the United States has always been vetoing anti-Israeli resolutions. Except that in 1950, in order to bypass a stalemate at the Security Council during the Korean War, because of stubborn Soviet vetoes, then-Secretary of State Dean Acheson initiated General Assembly Resolution 377, known as the "Uniting for Peace Resolution."

Simply put, in case of deadlock at the Security Council, Resolution 377 — an American invention — makes the General Assembly, where Libya and the United State have the same voice, the executive body, entrusted even with "the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security."

This is not procedure only. In September the world, through the United Nations, will tell Israel to get out of the West Bank, because it belongs to the Palestinian state. Even if borders can only be defined by agreement between the relevant countries, and not by the United Nations, the expected September resolution will put the onus on Israel.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, instead of going to Washington, should rather stay at home and from the Knesset podium invite the Palestinians and the Arabs to talk. About what? About the "Arab Peace Initiative" proposed in 2002 at the Beirut Summit of the Arab League and re-endorsed at the Riyadh Summit in 2007.

From day one, Israel has rejected that plan, because it had left the refugee issue open. Time for re-thinking. Instead of giving a flat "no", Netanyahu should now say to the Arabs "yes, but." The problem with this is that Hosni Mubarak, an important supporter of the initiative, is gone, and the other Arab rulers are busy staying in power themselves. Still, this is the only viable plan around.

Coming to think of it, now that the tsunami alarm has gone off, I suddenly realize how a cliché—or rather, two clichés—can sound so true: It's too little and too late, but it's better late than never.

EGYPTIAN

From Page 10

the best organization. Egyptians also worry that the former ruling party, although recently banned, may reemerge and prosper in rural areas, where it had created a powerful patronage system.

Yet Bahgat said bluntly: "The Ikhwan don't scare me." He said their past electoral strength—20 percent of the votes in the 2005 elections—stemmed from the fact that they were the only opposition group the regime didn't crush.

The Brothers also used to be seen as the only force that was anticorruption. "But now they can't claim they are the only ones with clean hands," Bahgat pointed out. "My gut feeling is that they won't get the biggest bloc."






In the new Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood will have plenty of electoral competition. Young activists hope to mobilize much of the 80 percent of the population who never voted because they thought their votes were irrelevant.

"We've been showered by e-mail from all over the country,"

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

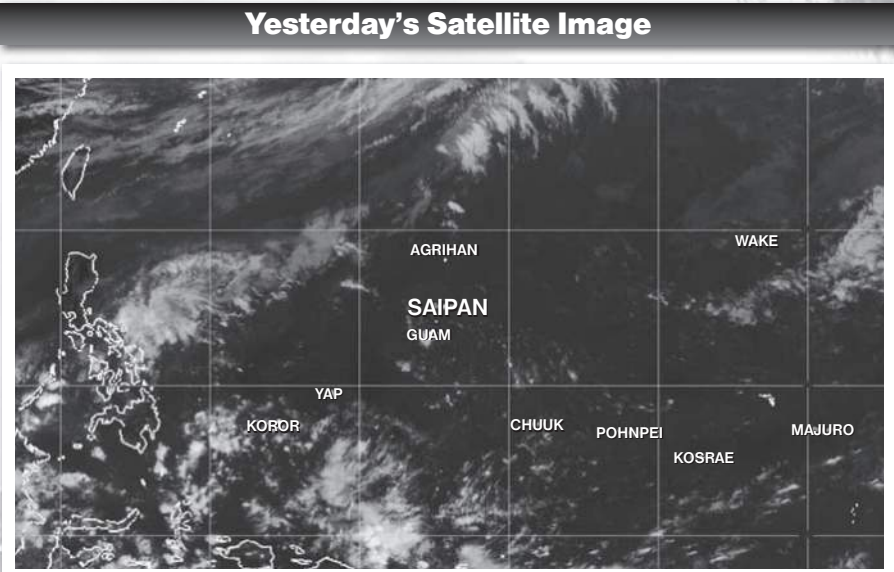
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia			
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81	
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼78	
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼77	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76	
Kosrae	Showers	▲90 ▼78	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77	

Around The Globe			
Auckland	Rain	▲63 ▼58	
Beijing	Showers	▲61 ▼49	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼72	
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84 ▼73	
London	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼44	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼55	
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼82	
Melbourne	Sunny	▲71 ▼52	
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼75	
New York	Thundershowers	▲67 ▼55	
Osaka	Showers	▲66 ▼61	
Paris	Sunny	▲74 ▼45	
Pusan	Rain	▲64 ▼57	
Rome	Showers	▲70 ▼53	
Salem	Rain	▲53 ▼44	
San Francisco	Showers	▲56 ▼48	
Seoul	Showers	▲61 ▼51	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼58	
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼65	

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
3:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line enters the discussion area near 25N147E and continues southwestward to 19N140E to 18N130E. Clouds and showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of the boundary. A second shear line enters the discussion area near 25N140E and stretches to 21N130E. Clouds and showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of the boundary. A surface trough of low pressure extends from near 1N132E to 5N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found west of Palau between 2N and 8N from 130E to 134E. Another surface trough stretches between 1N139E to 6N139E. This trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap between the equator and 7N from 137E to 143E. An upper-level trough extends from 27N180 to 9N157E. A shear line enters the discussion area east of Wake Island near 21N180E and stretches to 15N165E and ends near 14N160E. The combination of the upper trough and shear line is producing clouds. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Another shear line enters the discussion area near 23N180 and extends to 19N160E. Low clouds and showers can be found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro between 3N and 8N from 175E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Today	1:09 AM	1:01 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Wednesday	1:48 AM	1:49 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	2:24 AM	2:36 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Friday	3:00 AM	3:22 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Saturday	3:00 AM	3:22 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 21, 2011									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM					GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6		C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6	
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily, Departs at 6:05am effective June 1		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily, Arrives at 12:45am effective June 1, 2011	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	1, 7	
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only		CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN	
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT		C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau		OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM	
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau		PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau	
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7		C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau	
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM	
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG					HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency		
Guam-Rota				Tinian-Saipan					
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Guam-Rota				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Saipan-Rota				Saipan-Tinian					
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily		
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily		
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily		

FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE					
Guam-Saipan					
Flight Sector	ETD	ETA	Turn-around Time	Flytime Hrs	Dates
5K389	12:30	13:20	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam					
5K382	18:05	18:55	HK	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong					
5K168	14:20	17:30	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan					
5K169	10:00	17:05	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun
Mar. 28- May 22					
Guam-Saipan					
5K389	13:35	14:25	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam					
5K382	18:00	18:50	HKG	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong					
5K168	15:25	18:35	HKG	05:10	Mon , Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan					
5K169	09:55	17:00	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun

Business

Libyan rebel oil production down for 4 more weeks

BENGAZI, Libya (AP)—Libyan rebels fighting Moammar Gadhafi won't be able to produce more crude oil for at least another four weeks and are taking steps to conserve precious supplies of fuel and money, the top oil official in the breakaway east said Sunday.

The rebels need to repair equipment to pump oil from two key fields in the rebel-controlled east, Messla and Sarir, that were damaged in fighting, said Wahid Bughaigis, who serves as oil minister for the rebels.

"We just finished the assessment, and we are in the process of mobilizing the repairs," Bughaigis told reporters in Benghazi, the de facto capital of the rebel-held east. "We believe we need a minimum of four weeks to get back on stream."

OPEC-member Libya sits atop Africa's largest proven oil reserves. But Libyan exports have largely disappeared from the international market since the uprising began, helping drive oil prices to their highest levels in more than two years.

Earlier this month, the Gulf state of Qatar helped rebels complete the sale of 1 million barrels of crude that netted roughly \$129 million for the anti-Gadhafi forces.

But Bughaigis said he believed the rebels have spent much of that money on things like imported gasoline.



In this image made during a government organized trip, petrol pump is chained and locked in Zuwara, western Libya, Saturday, April 23, 2011. AP

"To put things in perspective, one cargo of gasoline of 25,000 metric tons costs us \$75 million, so you don't go far with \$129 million," he said.

Gasoline is sold at highly subsidized prices in eastern Libya. But Bughaigis said the rebels may have to re-examine whether the current consumption is sustainable.

"If it was only up to me, I would certainly put some rationing into the system, but we don't want to give any satisfaction to Mr. Gadhafi," said Bug-

haigis. "We want to show him we can run the country."

To conserve fuel, the rebels have cut electricity production in Benghazi by 25 percent,

said Bughaigis. The main plant providing power to the city used to be run with natural gas supplied from the oil facilities in Brega, now under

government control.

Now power plants are must rely on imported diesel fuel, he said.

The reduction in electricity production, which has been achieved by cutting power for up to 3.5 hours in different parts of the city, is meant to give the rebels "some breathing time between arrivals of tankers," said Bughaigis.

"We didn't have this problem when the gas was supplied to the plants, but now we have to supply it (diesel) by sea and get it from the road," he said.

Bughaigis said previously that the equipment that was damaged at the oil fields included a power generation system, one oil tank and several small diesel tanks that fueled the generators.

The rebels say the equipment was hit by pro-Gadhafi forces. The government, however, has blamed British warplanes for the damage—a charge NATO denied.

The 12 billion-barrel Sarir oil field is the country's largest, and Messla has 3 billion barrels. The two fields have a production capacity of about 400,000 barrels per day.

Oil near \$113 as damaged fields shut Libya output

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near \$113 a barrel Monday in Asia after Libyan rebels said they won't produce crude for at least a month as they repair fields damaged in fighting.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was up 32 cents at \$112.61 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil markets were closed Friday for the Easter holiday. The June contract last settled up 84 cents at \$112.29 on Thursday.

In London, Brent crude for

June delivery was up 16 cents to \$124.15 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Fighting between forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi and rebels has shutdown almost all of the OPEC nation's 1.6 million barrels a day of oil output and contributed to a 34 percent gain in crude prices since mid-February.

Rebels said Sunday that they will need at least four weeks to fix equipment at the key Messla and Sarir oil fields in the rebel-controlled east.

Rising crude prices have pushed gasoline above \$4 a gallon in some U.S. states. On

Saturday, President Barack Obama said the U.S. must develop alternatives to fossil fuel and renewed calls to end \$4 billion in subsidies for oil and gas companies.

Traders are also closely watching this week for comments by the Federal Reserve at its Wednesday meeting and the latest U.S. gross domestic product figures scheduled to be released Thursday.

Last week, signs of growing oil consumption in China and an unexpected drop in U.S. crude supplies helped lift prices to near two and a half year highs.

"We continue to note demand strength out of the emerging economies and a gradual tightening in U.S. petroleum balances," Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report. "We expect a run at the \$114 level (this week) with the market ultimately pushing up to around the \$119 area within about one month."

In other Nymex trading in May contracts, heating oil rose 1.3 cents to \$3.21 a gallon and gasoline added 1.3 cents to \$3.32 a gallon. Natural gas futures were up 0.7 cents at \$4.42 per 1,000 cubic feet.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United Continental: No more bag check discounts

CHICAGO (AP)—There's no more incentive to prepay online for your checked bags if you're flying United Continental. The carrier has done away with the \$2 to \$3 discount that passengers used to get if they paid for their luggage online instead of at the ticket counter. The charge for domestic flights operated by Chicago-based United Continental Holdings Inc. is now \$25 for the first bag and \$35 for the second, no matter how or when you pay. The change began for tickets sold since March 9. United and Continental used to offer a \$2 discount on the first bag and \$3 off the second to encourage passengers to pay up before arriving at the airport.

Some dairy farmers not keen on settlement

FAIRFIELD, Vt. (AP)—Some dairy farmers aren't sweet on part of a proposed \$30 million settlement with a giant dairy processor that they say could hurt their income. The proposal would settle a class-action antitrust lawsuit

filed in 2009 by five Northeastern dairy farms, who accused Dallas-based Dean Foods Co., Kansas City, Mo.-based cooperative Dairy Farmers of America and its marketing affiliate Dairy Marketing Services of working together to dominate the milk-buying market and hold down prices paid to farmers. Among the critics of the proposed \$30 million deal: Howard Howrigan, a dairyman from Fairfield, who fears the move could lower prices paid to farmers if Dean starts shopping elsewhere.

Dubai group looking to buy Afghan bank

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A Dubai-based conglomerate is seeking approval to buy a bank in Afghanistan as authorities there try to restore confidence in the scandal-tainted financial industry. The CEO of Alokozay Group's Afghan operations said in an interview Sunday the family company sees "great potential" in the nation's banking sector despite decades of war and the near collapse of the country's largest private lender amid corruption problems last year.

Mexico agency confirms \$1B fine for Slim's company

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's antitrust agency confirmed Sunday that it levied a \$1 billion (12 billion peso) fine against the Mexican cellphone subsidiary of tycoon Carlos Slim and ordered it to stop unfair practices.

The Federal Competition Commission said it found that Slim's Telcel business engages in "relative monopolistic practices" by overcharging competitors to connect calls to Telcel users.

The fine against Telcel is the maximum penalty possible - 10 percent of the company's assets because it is a repeat offender, the agency said in a statement. It gave Telcel 30 days to say how it will change its practices. Tel-

cel also has 30 days to appeal.

Slim's telecom company, America Movil, revealed the fine April 15. It said it was studying all options for appeal.

A commission official said the fine is the largest ever levied by the 18-year-old watchdog agency and was made possible by a 2006 reform that raised fines for repeat offenders.

The agency's statement said Telcel charges competitors higher interconnection rates to call Telcel users than it does to connect calls between its own clients. The interconnection rate is even higher than the full price Telcel charges its users to make a phone call, the commission said.

Telcel engages in relative mo-

nopolist practices "by abusing its substantial power in the market to unfairly displace its competitors and thus affect the competition process in the landline and cellphone markets, hurting the consumer," the statement said.

The commission said that in setting the fine it took into account the seriousness of Telcel's practice, how intentional it was, the duration of the practice and Telcel's share of the market.

The decision resulted from an investigation begun in 2006 at the request of competitors such as Axtel, Megacable and Telefonica.

"The competition problems associated with high interconnec-

tion fees in Mexico generate losses of \$6 billion each year to consumers," the commission said.

Telcel's parent company, America Movil, is the largest provider of wireless telephone service in Latin America, with 225 million subscribers. Its 2009 revenue totaled \$30 billion.

Named the richest man in the world by Fortune magazine, Slim, 71, also controls Mexico's dominant landline phone company, Telmex. He is estimated to be worth \$74 billion, with holdings in communications, retail, manufacturing, oil and construction. Some of his companies have come under various allegations of monopolistic practices in the past.

Nation

No deaths in St. Louis tornado called a miracle

BRIDGETON, Mo. (AP)—The St. Louis area's most powerful tornado in 44 years rips into an airport and through a densely populated suburban area, destroying up to 100 homes, shattering hundreds of panes of glass at the main terminal and blowing a shuttle bus on top of a roof. Yet no one is killed, or even seriously hurt, and the airport reopens less than 24 hours later. How?

Early warnings, good timing and common sense all helped prevent a tragedy Friday night. But on Easter Sunday, many of those cleaning up the mess also thanked a higher power.

"I don't know why God decided to spare our lives but I'm thankful for it," Joni Bellinger, children's minister at hard-hit Ferguson Christian Church, said Sunday.

Lambert Airport reopened for arriving flights Saturday night, and departing flights began Sunday morning. Still, dozens of flights have been canceled, the airport's Concourse C is still closed and complete repairs could take up to two months.

The tornado peaked at an

EF-4 level, second-highest on the Enhanced Fujita scale, packing winds of up to 200 mph, National Weather Service meteorologist Wes Browning said. It was the most powerful twister in metropolitan St. Louis since 1967—and eerily, it followed a path similar to that of the earlier tornado.

Entire subdivisions were destroyed. Cars were tossed about like toys, roofs tossed hundreds of yards and 100-year-old trees sucked out by the roots.

County officials said during a news conference Sunday that 2,700 buildings were damaged. Gov. Jay Nixon said Saturday that up to 100 were uninhabitable. The damage clearly will cost millions of dollars to repair, but a more precise estimate was unavailable Sunday.

The twister destroyed two of the homes John Stein owns on a street in the city of Berkeley, and damaged five others. "Everything you'd find in a war zone except the bodies," Stein said.

Residents in nine communities and unincorporated parts of St. Louis County were still sorting through the rubble Sunday.

Ameren Corp. had about 2,000 workers seeking to restore outages that affected 47,000 homes and businesses immediately after the storm. The utility said 18,300 were still without electricity on Sunday, and it could be several days before all power is restored.

Yet the common refrain was: It could have been worse. Stuff was destroyed, not lives.

The normally busy airport took a direct hit, with hundreds of panes of glass shattering from the force of the wind. The shuttle bus on the roof was among dozens of vehicles that were damaged.

But the airport had been quiet Friday night. Few planes on the ground were filled with passengers, and those shook but didn't topple. Just a couple of hundred passengers and workers were in Concourse C, which took the brunt of the damage, airport director Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge said. Five people suffered minor injuries.

Residents praised the weather service for warning them about the tornado more than a half-hour before it hit. Warning sirens blared at the airport, where



Leah Wertentheil, 3, waits for her parents Ruth and David to rebook on a Continental flight after their American flight was canceled Sunday morning, April 24, 2011.

security officers and other workers herded people to stairwells and bathrooms.

Residents also paid attention to the sirens, and local TV stations switched from network programming to radar of the pending disaster and stern warnings from meteorologists to seek refuge in basements.

"The bottom line is the 34-minute warning and the heeding of that warning by the citizens has saved countless lives," Nixon said.

Browning agreed.

"The public did what we told them to do," the meteorologist said. "Many came out of the basement without a scratch, and there was nothing left" of their homes.

Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers believes divine intervention also was at work. His own home had moderate damage, but several houses in his neighborhood were obliterated. In many of them, mercifully, no one was home when the twister hit. One family was out for dinner. Another was away playing cards. Another was visiting relatives in Dallas.

Kelly: Giffords cleared to attend shuttle launch

HOUSTON (AP)—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords will attend husband Mark Kelly's space shuttle launch in Florida on Friday, Kelly said, allowing the Arizona congresswoman to travel for the first time since she was flown from Tucson to Houston more than three months ago to recover from a gunshot wound to the head.

In an interview with CBS' Katie Couric, Kelly said Giffords' doctors had given her permission to travel to Cape Canaveral, Fla., for the launch of Endeavour, which is scheduled for 3:47 p.m. Friday. Kelly is the commander of the shuttle mission.

CBS released excerpts of the interview Sunday, and it was scheduled to air Monday on "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric," according to a network statement.

"I've met with her doctors, her neurosurgeon and her doc-



This undated file photo provided by the office of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, shows her, left, with her husband, NASA astronaut Mark Kelly.

tors, and ... they've given us permission to take her down to the launch," Kelly said in the interview in Houston. The network statement did not specify when the interview occurred.

James Harsfield, spokesman

for NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, referred all questions about Giffords to the congresswoman's office, where there was no immediate comment.

President Barack Obama and the first family also are sched-

uled to watch the launch, although it's unclear if they will watch it with Giffords.

Families view launches at Kennedy Space Center from a restricted area, and there are no plans for Giffords to make a public appearance.

It will be the first time Giffords has traveled since she was flown from Tucson, Ariz., to Houston on Jan. 21 for rehab. The Democrat was shot in the head Jan. 8 in a shooting in Tucson that killed six people and injured 12 others.

Giffords' spokesman, C.J. Karamargin, and her chief of staff, Pia Carusone, plan to hold a news conference after the launch to discuss the congresswoman's reaction, but Giffords will not go to the news conference because it could be an emotional moment for her, Karamargin said.

Documents reveal new info on Gitmo detainees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secret documents about detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison reveal new information about some of the men that the United States believes to be terrorists, according to reports about the files released Sunday by several American and European newspapers. The U.S. government criticized the publication as "unfortunate."

The military detainee assessments were made public Sunday night by U.S. and European newspapers after the WikiLeaks website obtained the files. The records contain details of the more than 700 detainee interrogations and evidence the U.S. had collected against these suspected terrorists, according to the media outlets.

It's not clear if the media outlets published the documents with the consent of WikiLeaks.

The files—known as Detainee Assessment Briefs or DABs—describe the intelligence value of the detainees and whether they would be a threat to the U.S. if released. To date, 604 detainees have been transferred out of Guantanamo while 172 remain locked up.

The disclosures are likely to provide human right activists with additional ammunition that some cases against inmates appear to be based on flawed evidence. However, the DABs show certain inmates were more dangerous than

previously known to the public and could complicate efforts by the U.S. to transfer detainees out of the controversial prison that President Barack Obama has failed to close.

The dossiers provide new insights into some of the prison's most notorious detainees such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. According to The New York Times, Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, commanded a Maryland resident to kill Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf.

Another high-value detainee, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, bragged that he outranked Mohammed who was then considered the terrorist group's No. 3. Al-Nashiri faces charges before a military commission for his suspected role in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole. According to The Times, Al-Nashiri was also consumed with jihad and believed women were a distraction.

He was so "dedicated to jihad that he reportedly received injections to promote impotence and recommended the injections to others so more time could be spent on the jihad," according to al-Nashiri's file.

U.S. officials said the documents "may or may not represent the current view of a given detainee" and criticized the decision by media organizations to publish the "sensitive information."

ACROSS THE NATION

Workers recover body of trapped Idaho miner

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Workers at a northern Idaho silver mine have recovered the body of a miner who was trapped when a tunnel collapsed nine days ago, the mine's operator said Sunday. The body of Larry Marek, 53, was discovered Sunday afternoon, Hecla Mining Co. said in a news release. "Words cannot express the deep sorrow we feel at the tragic loss of our friend, colleague and 30-year veteran of the mining industry. Our thoughts and prayers are

with his family, loved ones and friends," the company's statement said.

1 teen dead, another critical after Kan. shooting

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Police in southern Kansas say a 16-year-old who was on a weekend pass from a children's home has fatally shot a 17-year-old boy and critically wounded his own 17-year-old sister after finding them together. Wichita police say the shooting happened about 1 a.m. Sunday. Po-

lice Sgt. Jesse Boomer says police responded to the home after getting a report of shots fired. Boomer says the boy was dead and the girl was taken to Wesley Medical Center, where she was in critical.

Colo. mall fire suspect was just freed from prison

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—The man authorities say they suspect of carrying out an apparent attempted bombing at a Colorado shopping mall had been released from prison

a week earlier. The FBI said Sunday that agents are looking for Earl Albert Moore after Wednesday's fire at Southwest Plaza Mall, about two miles from Columbine High School, where 13 people were killed 12 years ago. Federal Bureau of Prisons records show that Moore, 65, was released from prison April 13. FBI spokesman Dave Joly said Moore served time in a Georgia federal prison. Federal court records show that Moore pleaded guilty in May 2005 to robbing a bank in Crab Orchard, W. Va., of \$2,546.

Asia

Cambodia says Thai shells damaged ancient temples

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia on Monday accused Thailand of damaging two ancient temples during three days of border clashes between the Southeast Asian neighbors that have left at least 12 soldiers dead.

There was no immediate comment from Thai authorities, and the extent of the damage was unclear Monday as a precarious calm held in the disputed border region housing the nearly 1,000-year-old stone temples of Ta Moan and Ta Krabey from the Khmer empire.

The current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, was in “intense” talks with both sides to secure an end to the conflict, according to Hamzah Thayeb, a senior official at Indonesia’s foreign ministry who oversees Asia-Pacific affairs.

Natalegawa was due in Cambodia on Monday, but Thayeb said the trip was postponed because Indonesia was still negotiating terms on sending in military observers—a move that Thailand has so far vehemently rejected.

The dispute between Cambodia and Thailand involves small swaths of land along the

border, with nationalistic politics fueling tensions. Clashes have erupted several times since 2008, when Cambodia’s 11th-century Preah Vihear temple was given U.N. World Heritage status over Thailand’s objections.

The current round of clashes is the first reported since February, when eight soldiers and civilians were killed near the Preah Vihear temple, which suffered minor damage from exploding artillery and mortar shells that knocked small chunks out of a few of its walls. The latest fighting is about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Preah Vihear.

After easing earlier in the day, fighting resumed late Sunday night, both sides said.

Thai Army spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd said Cambodian troops opened fire, killing a Thai soldier. Chea Samrach, a Cambodian soldier on the front line, said Thai snipers killed one Cambodian soldier and wounded two others. Ten soldiers died in the first two days of the clashes.

Cambodia’s Defense Ministry said Thai forces fired 1,000 artillery and mortar shells Sunday, damaging the two temples. Some shells landed about 12

miles (20 kilometers) inside Cambodian territory, forcing 17,000 people to flee and destroying one school and a dozen homes, and setting ablaze some farming fields, the ministry said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for

a cease-fire, but the prospects for peace appear shaky, with the two sides disagreeing on what triggered the fighting and differing on how to negotiate the conflicting territorial claims underlying the crisis.

Indonesia’s efforts to medi-

ate have been stymied so far by Thailand’s reluctance to allow Indonesian military observers in the area of dispute. Thailand insists the problem should be solved through bilateral talks with Cambodia, but Cambodia wants third-party mediation.

The fighting comes as Thailand’s military raises its profile in domestic politics ahead of general elections expected by early July. The army previously effectively vetoed a plan to station Indonesian observers to monitor the border situation.



In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, a commander of Cambodian Royal Armed Forces gives instructions at a military camp in the border disputed area in Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia, Sunday, April 24, 2011.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan launches massive search for tsunami bodies

TAGAJO, Japan (AP)—Some 25,000 Japanese troops are fanning out on the wreckage-strewn northeastern coast Monday in a massive search for thousands of bodies still missing from last month’s earthquake and tsunami. Backed by dozens of boats and aircraft, the soldiers are scouring the region for remains swept to sea or buried under masses of rubble. The operation is the third intensive military search for bodies since the disaster that killed up to 26,000 people.

Strong, shallow earthquake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong, shallow earthquake hit eastern Indonesia early Monday, sending residents, hotels guests and patients from a hospital fleeing in panic. Some homes were damaged, with windows shattered and walls cracked, but there were no immediate reports of injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.2 quake struck the southeastern tip of Sulawesi island.

PH fears new landslides, wants miners out

PANTUKAN, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials discovered a dangerous crack Sunday in a mountain hit by a deadly landslide last week and want troops to force dozens of illegal gold miners to leave before another disaster strikes their remote southern village. Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje said he and other officials discovered the 230-foot (70-meter) -long fissure on a mountain slope above Kingking village during an aerial survey. A portion of the slope along the crack collapsed after a downpour Friday and buried shanties, bunkhouses and tents below, leaving at least five dead and 17 missing.

Building fire kills at least 17 people in Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—At least 17 people were killed in an early morning fire Monday in a four-story building in southern Beijing, state media reported. China’s official Xinhua News Agency said 24 other people were hurt in the fire, which broke out at 1 a.m. (1700 GMT Sunday). It said the fire had been put out, but did not immediately give a cause for the blaze.

Pakistani drones protest keeps NATO trucks at bay

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

(AP)—The leader of a Pakistani political party protesting U.S. drone strikes demanded Sunday that the attacks end in one month or he would launch more demonstrations aimed at cutting off a key supply route for Western troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

Imran Khan made the demand at the end of a two-day protest that clogged up a major road used by trucks to ferry supplies to U.S. and NATO troops across the border. Only a few thousand people came out, but the demonstration drew widespread attention at a time of increased U.S.-Pakistan tension and underscored the vulnerability of the supply line.

Authorities halted the NATO

supply shipments Saturday as the protest began on the outskirts of Peshawar, around 35 miles (57 kilometers) from the Afghan border. By late Sunday, officials said the road was re-open to all traffic.

“We will block NATO supplies from Karachi to Khyber everywhere if drone attacks are not stopped in one month,” said Khan, a one-time Pakistani cricket star-turned-politician, to the crowd of protesters.

If they don’t stop, “We will march toward Islamabad,” he said.

It is unclear how much impact future protests led by Khan will have. Although he has a high profile due to his sporting history, his political following is relatively small. But the issue

of the drone-fired U.S. missile strikes is sensitive for Pakistanis in general, with many concerned about civilian deaths, and could boost his appeal.

Earlier Sunday, as some youth in the protest shouted and danced to drum beats, others held banners with slogans such as “Our blood is not for sale” and “Stop drone attacks, stop genocide of innocent Pakistanis.”

The U.S. rarely discusses the covert, CIA-run program, but officials have insisted it is mostly militants who are killed by the drone-fired missiles. Pakistan has publicly denounced the strikes, but is believed to secretly aid in at least some of them.

But tensions between Pakistan and the United States have risen since late January, when

an American CIA contractor shot dead two Pakistanis he said were trying to rob him. Since then, the military and civilian leaders have taken a tougher line on the missile strikes, at least in public.

Much of the non-lethal supplies for foreign troops in landlocked Afghanistan come through Pakistan. Militants often attack the convoys, and last September Pakistan closed the border for 20 days to protest a deadly NATO helicopter strike inside its borders.

The U.S. and NATO normally say such interruptions have little to no impact on the supply line. But they have been turning more to other roads into Afghanistan from the north in recent years.

400 inmates, some Taliban, escape Afghan prison

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—More than 400 inmates—many of them Taliban insurgents—escaped from the main prison in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar overnight through an underground tunnel, an official said Monday.

The massive jailbreak in Kandahar, the focus of much of the international military effort to defeat the insurgency, is a reminder that the Afghan government is still weak and easily thwarted in the south, despite an

influx of international troops, funding and advisers.

The escape comes after years of security upgrades and tightened procedures at the 1,200-inmate Sarposha Prison following a brazen 2008 Taliban attack that freed 900 prisoners.

On Sunday night, about 476 prisoners streamed out of a tunnel dug between the prison and the outside and disappeared into Kandahar city, prison supervisor Ghulam

Dastagir Mayar said. He said many of the missing were Taliban militants.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the insurgents on the outside dug the 1,050-foot (320-meter) tunnel to the prison over five months, bypassing government checkpoints. The tunnel finally reached the prison cells Sunday night, and the inmates were led through it to freedom by three prisoners who had been informed of the plan, Mujahid said.

About 100 of those who escaped were Taliban commanders, and most of the others were fighters with the insurgency, he said.

In the 2008 attack, dozens of militants on motorbikes and two suicide bombers assaulted the prison. One suicide bomber set off an explosives-laden tanker truck at the prison gate while a second bomber blew up an escape route through a back wall. About 900 inmates escaped, including 400 Taliban fighters.

World

In Easter message, pope urges diplomacy in Libya

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI offered an Easter prayer Sunday for diplomacy to prevail over warfare in Libya and for citizens of the Middle East to build a new society based on respect.

He also called on Europeans to welcome refugees from North Africa.

"In heaven, all is peace and gladness. But, alas, all is not so on earth!" the pope lamented as he delivered the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" message from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to a crowd of more than 100,000 that overflowed from St. Peter's Square.

"In the current conflict in Libya, may diplomacy and dialogue replace arms, and may those who suffer as a result of the conflict be given access to humanitarian aid," he said.

Referring to North Africa and the Middle East, the pope prayed that all citizens, especially young people, would "work to promote the common good and to build a society where poverty is defeated and every political choice is inspired by respect for the human person."

Uprisings, repression and civil warfare have triggered an exodus of people to Italian shores as well as other countries in the region. Europe has been split over whether to accept or deport tens of thousands of migrants, many of them from Libya and elsewhere in northern Africa.

Benedict rallied to the side of refugees, urging people of good will to "open their hearts to welcome them."

"Here, in this world of ours, the Easter alleluia still contrasts with the cries and laments that arise from so many painful situations: deprivation, hunger, disease, war, violence," said the pontiff, resplendent in gold-colored robes as he sat on a chair and read his speech in Italian.

This year, Easter fell on the



In this photo provided by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI holds his pastoral staff during the "Urbi et Orbi" (Latin for to the City and to the World) message from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, at the end of the Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, April 24, 2011.

AP

same day in the Orthodox and Roman Catholic church calendars, and in Jerusalem, Orthodox and Catholics worshipped at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, revered as the site of Jesus' Good Friday crucifixion and burial and of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Protestants held their own ceremonies outside the walled Old City at the Garden Tomb, which some identify as the site of Jesus' burial.

In Cagliari, Sardinia, an Easter lunch of Sardinian cheese, pasta and lamb was served by Caritas, the Catholic charity, to some 20 Tunisians, the Italian news agency ANSA reported from the island. The diners were some of the more than 26,000 Tunisians who have clandestinely entered Italy since unrest in their homeland in January.

Most are waiting for temporary travel documents from Italy they hope will let them reach France, where many have friends and relatives. France has warned the Tunisians they will be sent back unless they have jobs or savings to support themselves.

The dispute between Rome and Paris over the Tunisians' fate is expected to dominate much of an Italian-French summit in the Italian capital on Tuesday.

Appeals for solidarity like Benedict's are also "words for those who keep the doors closed" to the migrants, Monsignor Albert Mario Careggio, bishop of Ventimiglia, an Italian town near the French border, told Sky TG24 TV.

In Rome, the drama of society's unwanted played out in one of the city's major basilicas, where some 150 Gypsies have taken refuge from city officials who are dismantling illegal Roma trailer settlements. The Gypsies say City Hall will split their families by sending women and children to a shelter in a Rome suburb but not men.

Strike on Gadhafi compound badly damages buildings

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—NATO airstrikes targeted the center of Moammar Gadhafi's seat of power early Monday, destroying a multi-story library and office and badly damaging a reception hall for visiting dignitaries.

Gadhafi's whereabouts at the time of the attack on his sprawling Bab al-Azizya compound were unclear. A security official at the scene said four people were lightly hurt.

Monday's strike came after Gadhafi's forces unleashed a barrage of shells and rockets at the besieged rebel city of Misrata, in an especially bloody weekend that left at least 32 dead and dozens wounded.

The battle for Misrata, which has claimed hundreds of lives

in the past two months, has become the focal point of Libya's armed rebellion against Gadhafi since fighting elsewhere is deadlocked.

Video of Misrata civilians being killed and wounded by Gadhafi's heavy weapons, including Grad rockets and tank shells, have spurred calls for more forceful international intervention to stop the bloodshed in the rebel-held city.

In Washington on Sunday, three members of the Senate Armed Services Committee said that more should be done to drive Gadhafi out of power, including targeting his inner circle with air strikes. Gadhafi "needs to wake up every day wondering, 'Will this be my last?'" Sen.

Lindsey Graham, a Republican on the committee, told CNN's "State of the Union."

Early in the campaign of airstrikes against Gadhafi, a cruise missile blasted an administration building in Bab al-Azizya last month, knocking down half the three-story building. The compound was also targeted in a U.S. bombing in April 1986, after Washington held Libya responsible for a blast at a Berlin disco that killed two U.S. servicemen.

At least two missiles struck Bab al-Azizya early Monday, and the booms could be heard miles (kilometers) away.

A multi-story building that guards said served as Gadhafi's library and office was turned into a pile of twisted metal and

broken concrete slabs. Dozens of Gadhafi supporters climbed atop the ruins, raising Libya's green flag and chanting in support of their leader.

A second building, where Gadhafi received visiting dignitaries, suffered blast damage. The main door was blown open, glass shards were scattered across the ground and picture frames were knocked down.

Just two weeks ago, Gadhafi had received an African Union delegation led by South African President Jacob Zuma in the ceremonial building, which was furnished with sofas and chandeliers. The delegation had called for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue between the rebels and the government.

Egypt prosecutor orders Mubarak to army hospital

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's prosecutor general ordered Sunday that former president Hosni Mubarak be moved from his hospital in a Red Sea resort town to a military medical facility, according to his website.

Mubarak was originally supposed to be moved to Cairo's Tora prison hospital, but it was deemed not yet ready to receive him, said a spokesman for Prosecutor General Abdel-Maguid Mahmoud.

Instead the former president will stay in a military hospital until the prison facility is ready, said the spokesman Adel Said in a statement posted up on the prosecutor's Facebook page.

"The public prosecutor addressed the interior minister,

informing him to take the necessary steps to move the former president ... to a military hospital, to implement a custody order," the statement said.

A report by a top forensic medical official said Mubarak could be moved without endangering his health, as long as he was given appropriate medical treatment, added the statement.

Mubarak was hospitalized with heart problems after he and his sons were ordered into custody on April 13 while being investigated for corruption allegations and their role in the shooting of protesters during the 18 days of demonstrations against his rule. Under the pressure of those demonstra-

tions, Mubarak stepped down on Feb. 11.

Mubarak is scheduled to stay in custody for 15 days—until April 28—but his detention will most likely be extended.

Thousands of Egyptians had demanded that Mubarak be placed in a prison compound, where his sons and many of his former ministers and officials are housed, instead of staying in hospital.

Mubarak's sons and the top officials of the former ruling party are being held in Cairo's Tora prison while they are investigated on charges ranging from corruption to squandering public funds to ordering the violent suppression of anti-government demonstrators.

WORLD BRIEFS

Body parts found in upscale Mexico City district

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The dismembered body of a woman was found scattered in a leafy, upscale Mexico City district, while authorities investigated possible drug gang links in the deaths of five females whose throats were slashed in Acapulco. The mass slaying of women is unusual in Mexico's drug war, and there was no indication the cases in the two cities were related. Residents of the capital's tree-lined San Miguel Chapultepec neighborhood discovered the woman's upper body on one block and her left leg and right leg on two other blocks, the city prosecutor's office said Saturday. The body parts were stuffed into three plastic bags and the fingers of the victim's left hand had been cut off.

At least 105 dead in clashes in Southern Sudan

JUBA, Sudan (AP)—At least 105 people have died in violence between government forces and

rebel militias in Southern Sudan this week, an official said Sunday, raising concerns of southern instability ahead of the region's independence declaration in July. Brig. Malaak Ayuen, the head of the Southern Sudan's Army Information Department, said fighting on Saturday between a group of rebels led by Maj. Gen. Gabriel Tanginye in Jonglei state and southern government forces led to 57 people being killed and scores being injured.

Turks increasingly commemorate Armenian massacre

ISTANBUL (AP)—Tourists flocking to see carpets and calligraphy at one of Istanbul's most renowned museums were met Sunday by a rare public display of opinion on perhaps the darkest episode of Turkey's history, the massacres of Armenians during World War I. Several dozen demonstrators held red roses and photographs of the dead outside the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, an Ottoman-era building where historians say Armenian intellectuals were briefly detained at the outset of the 1915 slaughter.

Overdrive

Luxurious touches can't brighten a dull Honda Accord



MCT

The 2011 Honda Accord offers room and refinement and enough sporty manners to prevent you from nodding off while commuting.

By **LARRY PRINTZ**
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Most of us favor the familiar over the foreign, and that's what makes the 2011 Honda Accord so popular. We know what it offers: room and refinement and enough sporty manners to prevent you from nodding off while commuting.

But looking at the large gray sedan delivered for a weeklong test drive, I could only think of the Hyundai Sonata, a daring design challenge to the conservative styling that dominates this segment and is typified by the Accord.

By comparison, the Honda, with its silver exterior and black interior, seems particularly joyless, despite the fact that the Accord in question is a new model, the Special Edition, or SE.

The SE takes all of the equipment of the inexpensive LX-P model and, for an extra \$750, adds leather-trimmed seating, heated front seats, driver's

power-lumbar support and a leather-trimmed steering wheel.

This may sound lavish until you climb into the car and notice what is absent. Rear-view camera? Nope. Navigation system? AWOL. Transmission paddle shifters? You wish. The overall ambience is very subdued, lacking the opulent feel the package's contents imply.

But look closer, and you'll find this package is more about value than it is about lavishness. The tilt/telescopic steering wheel is a manual affair, but finding a comfy driving position is easy. The driver has a good view of surrounding traffic, a rarity as more automakers shrink the size of their windows.

As with the rest of the car, the engine is frugal. Standard on the SE, LX and LX-P is a 177-horsepower, 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a five-speed transmission, either manual or automatic. EX and EX-L four-cylinder

sedans have the same engine, but with 13 more ponies under the hood.

Performance seems perfectly adequate, but little more. It's perfectly peppy around town, although this sedan lacks the obvious punch of the V6 model. The flip side is decent fuel economy for such a large car.

The Accord goes about its business with a bit more gusto than most of its competitors, and this makes it a somewhat entertaining sedan to pilot through clogged arteries. Body lean is held in check, and stopping is progressive and fuss-free. The ride is as comfortable as waist-extender pants.

The EPA considers the Accord a large car, and the

NUTS & BOLTS

What we say: Frugality with a touch of luxury

Pro: Fuel economy, handling and size at a modest price

Con: Somber colors lend a dull feel to the cabin

Engine: 2.4-liter DOHC four-cylinder

Wheelbase: 110.2 inches

Length: 194.9 inches

Weight: 3,301 pounds

Cargo space: 14.7 cubic feet

EPA rating (city/highway): 23/34 mpg

Fuel consumption: 25 mpg

Fuel type: Regular

Base price, base model: \$21,180

Base price, test model: \$23,730

As tested: \$24,480

Accord easily swallows four corn-fed Americans—five if they're related—without excuses. The seats are supportive, even on long drives; the trunk is spacious enough for most needs.

The instrument panel is straightforward and easy to use, once you're accustomed to the four knobs and 30 buttons just right of the driver.

Cabin storage space is generous.

And, as you'd expect of a sedan, the Accord is stuffed with airbags, stability control, traction control and any number of electronic braking aids to ensure that you don't unintentionally re-sculpt your car.

There's little here to offend, but also little to excite, unless you like a good deal. That's because the SE offers a price break, offering a little extra luxury on a lower-end model. Throw in the Accord's good fuel economy and sizeable cabin, and it's easy to see why the Accord continues to attract buyers.

Sputtering, sluggish Regal might suffer fuel system issues

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: On the way to Pinetop, Ariz., from Phoenix, my 2003 Buick Regal began to downshift erratically and slow down, and the check engine light came on. I slowed and the engine light went off, but the car behaved as if it lost power and struggled up many of the grades.

When accelerating from a stop, the car takes off slowly, balks and jerks until it shifts to the second gear. This sporadically repeats until it hits third or fourth gear. If you press to downshift or before

it shifts into the next gear, the car slows until you let up and a shift takes place. There's also a fairly loud sputtering, which goes away when it shifts. Generally speaking, the car will maintain a speed but is sluggish and lacks the pep it had.

I have had 2 separate mechanics look at it. One said that it was the catalytic converter, and the other said that it was the gas filter. I had the filter changed and the problem continued, so I was told that it was the fuel pump.

The vehicle is still drivable—it has only 80,000 miles and is in great shape—but I don't want to experiment with re-

pair. The gas mileage has not been severely affected. Do you have any suggestions on what the problem may be and what the appropriate course of action would be?

—Bill Netols

ANSWER: Yikes! It's time to test, not guess. Your excellent symptom descriptions provide a great start to solving this puzzle. The repair recommendations have merit, but each needs to be backed up or dismissed with some simple tests.

I'd start by retrieving the diagnostic trouble code, or DTC, that were logged at the time the yellow check engine light illuminated. A DTC will indicate a fault

in a particular engine control system circuit or a symptom—say, the fuel system is running too lean or rich, or a cylinder misfire has occurred. Since the light came on and went off, rather than stubbornly remaining on, it will be a symptom code.

Checking fuel pressure on a GM vehicle is easy, thanks to the built-in test port. I'd drive the Buick through a comprehensive road test with the fuel gauge taped to the windshield, as opposed to simply checking the pressure while in the shop. If the pressure should fall below specs at any time while imitating your driving experiences, then the engine is consuming more

fuel than provided, and the problem is almost sure to be either a faulty fuel pump or a restricted fuel filter or pre-pump sock or strainer. Renewing the filter was a good idea, and it didn't help, so we can rule it out. A failed or restricted catalytic converter could result in a substantial power loss that's most noticeable when the engine is breathing hard. This fault can be verified or dismissed by connecting a vacuum gauge to the intake manifold or a pressure gauge to the exhaust and observing the readings at high versus low breathing rates. Also, a restricted catalytic converter will likely rattle if smacked with a rubber mallet, because of a bro-

ken internal substrate.

Based on your symptom descriptions, and the acceptable gas mileage, I'd lean away from the catalytic converter and delve deeper into fuel system tests. Should the fuel system be deficient, the DTCs that are likely in storage will be a P0171 and P0174 (system lean, both engine cylinder banks). Prior to renewing an apparently faulty fuel pump, one should always verify adequate voltage at the pump connector while operating.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Island Snapshots



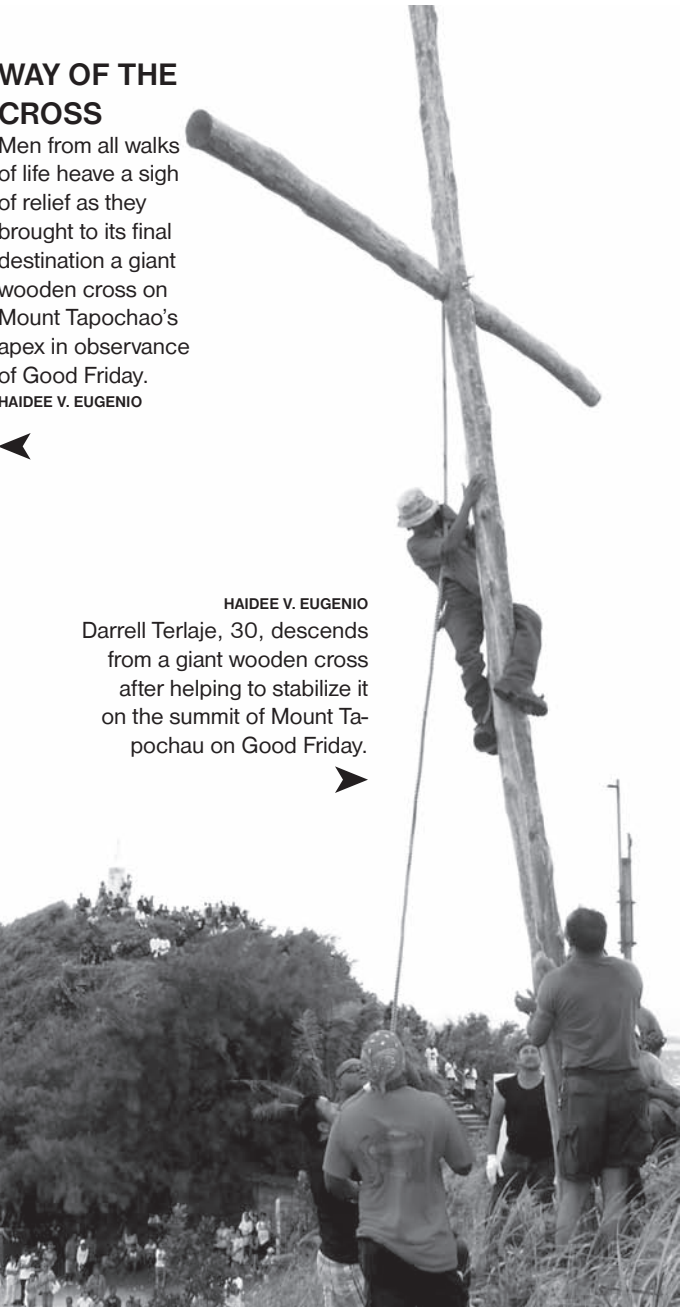
WAY OF THE CROSS

Men from all walks of life heave a sigh of relief as they brought to its final destination a giant wooden cross on Mount Tapochau's apex in observance of Good Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Darrell Terlaje, 30, descends from a giant wooden cross after helping to stabilize it on the summit of Mount Tapochau on Good Friday.



TREK TO MT. TAPOCHAO

Fr. Jesse Tudela Reyes of San Jose Parish leads the Way of the Cross aboard a pickup truck during the trek to the peak of Mt. Tapochau, the annual tradition in observance of Good Friday, on April 22.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

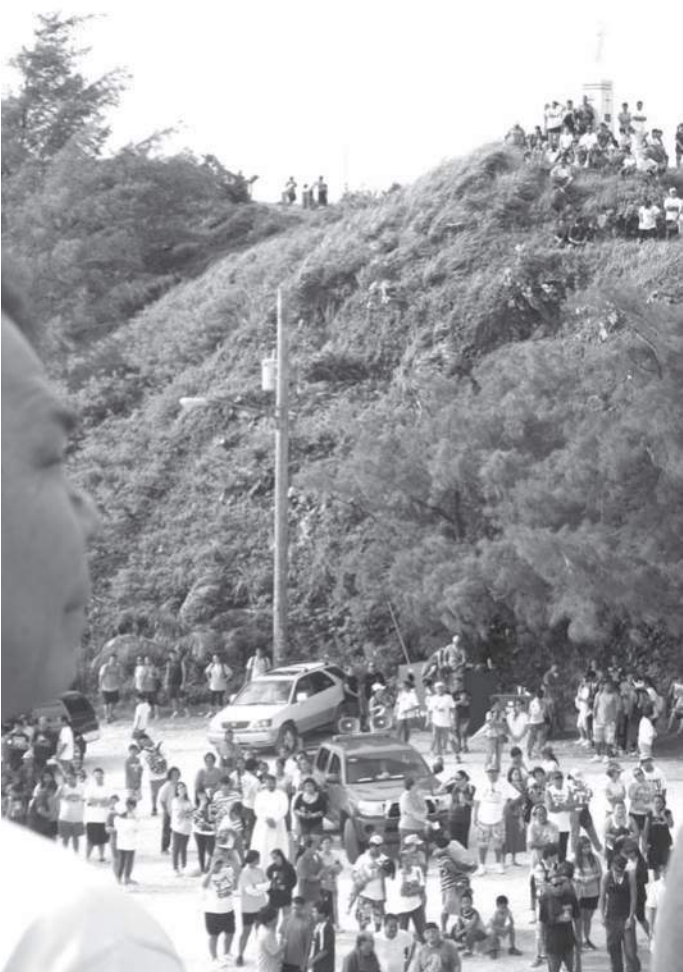
CLARISSA V. DAVID
Some of the Good Friday trekkers are seen at the foot of the Risen Lord monument atop Mt. Tapochau last April 22



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Staff and volunteers of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter smile for the camera in front of their booth at Mt. Tapochau in observance of Good Friday on April 22.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization take a break from distributing refreshments to Mt. Tapochau trekkers last April 22, Good Friday.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Joe Torres, left, gets a good view of Mount Tapochau teeming with people who made the annual Good Friday trek to the highest point on Saipan.



DOUBLE CELEBRATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Traveler's Lodge residents capped their long weekend with a small gathering at the apartment's common area last Easter Sunday. The event also doubled as birthday celebration for Rowell, Francis, and Kleng.

Life & Style

Rap music inspires Libyan rebels to defeat Gadhafi

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)—Libyan rebel fighter Jaad Jumaa Hashmi cranks up the volume on his pickup truck's stereo when he heads into battle against Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

He looks for inspiration from a growing cadre of amateur rappers whose powerful songs have helped define the revolution.

The music captures the anger and frustration young Libyans feel at decades of repressive rule under Gadhafi, driving the 27-year-old Hashmi forward even though the heavy machine gun bolted on the back of his truck—and other weapons in the rebel arsenal—are no match for Gadhafi's heavy artillery.

"It captures the youths' quest for freedom and a decent life and gives us motivation," Hashmi said as he sat in his truck on the outskirts of the front line city of Ajdabiya. He was listening to "Youth of the Revolution," which the rap group Music Masters wrote just days after the uprising began in mid-February.

"Moammar, get out, get out, game over! I'm a big, big soldier!" sang 20-year-old Milad Faraway, who started Music Masters with his friend and neighbor, 22-year-old Mohammed Madani, at the end of 2010.

Rather than grabbing AK-47s and heading to the front line with other rebels to fight Gadhafi's forces, Faraway and Madani stayed in Benghazi, the de facto capital of rebel-held eastern Libya, and picked up a microphone.

"Everyone has his own way of fighting, and my weapon is art," said Faraway, a geology student, during a recent recording session in a small room on the fourth floor of an aging apartment building in downtown Benghazi. The room was equipped with little more than a microphone, stereo and computer.

The room was decorated with a large red, black and green rebel flag and a framed photo of the Guns N' Roses



In this photo taken Tuesday, April 19, 2011, Milad Faraway, a.k.a. Dark Man, 20, left, and Mohammed Madani, a.k.a. Madani Lion, 22, center, of the Music Masters rap group perform for self-taught sound engineer Motaz bin Amr, 24, right, during a recording session in a small rooftop studio on top of a residential building in Benghazi, Libya.

guitarist Slash. Faraway and Madani smoked cigarettes and sipped steaming glasses of sweet tea as they recorded lyrics for their latest song, a tribute to cities caught up in the revolution.

The freewheeling rap scene developing in Benghazi indicates how much has changed in eastern Libya in the past two months. Speaking out against Gadhafi before the rebellion used to mean prison and maybe even death. And rap, like other forms of Western culture, was despised by Gadhafi, who burned foreign musical instruments and books after he seized power in 1969.

"I always wanted to talk about Gad-

hafi's mistakes and crimes, but we never had the chance for free speech," said Madani, who is the son of a famous local singer in Benghazi and works part-time in his family's cell phone and car parts shops. "All you could talk about was how good Gadhafi's revolution was."

Faraway, who like many rappers in Benghazi is known by his nickname, "Dark Man," and Madani, aka "Madani Lion," form the core of Music Masters, but the composition of the group has changed over time. One of the rappers quit just after the uprising started because he feared being targeted by Gadhafi's thugs, Madani said. The

group recently added 24-year-old Rami Raki, aka "Ram Rak," who grew up in Manchester, England.

Many of the songs that Music Masters and other groups have recorded in the past two months feature rapid fire lyrics reminiscent of Eminem. The lyrics ridicule Gadhafi and lambast him for his treatment of the country in the past four decades.

"Gadhafi, open your eyes wide and you will see that the Libyan people just broke through the fear barrier," sang the group Revolution Beat in their song "17 February," a reference to the so-called "Day of Rage" when protesters

took to the streets in several towns and clashed with security forces.

Roughly a dozen rap songs recorded since the start of the rebellion have been put on CDs with rebel-inspired album covers and are available for sale in downtown Benghazi. One cover has a drawing of fighters on a captured Gadhafi tank flying the rebel flag.

Some of the songs mix Arabic and English, a testament to the American origins of rap. When the rappers perform in public, which is rare, they wear baggy pants, T-shirts and baseball caps typical of many American rappers.

Rap is not the only style of music that has been used to create anthems for the revolution, but Mutaz al-Obeidi, a 23-year-old member of Revolution Beat, said it was uniquely positioned to appeal to Libya's youth.

"Rap is more popular than rock and country among the young people in Libya because it expresses anger and frustration," said al-Obeidi, an English student, standing in a small recording studio in the official rebel media center in Benghazi that is used by Revolution Beat.

"The guys at the media center contacted us and said you guys have a rap group and we want rap to be part of the revolution," said Youssef al-Briki, 24, who started Revolution Beat with Islam Winees, 21, in 2007, but originally called the group Street Beat.

Al-Briki, aka "SWAT," works as a garbage man, and Winees, known as "A.Z.," is a small-time businessman. Both have the tough-guy vibe of gangsta rappers and expressed admiration for Tupac Shakur, who was shot and killed in Las Vegas in 1996.

"He's a real rapper. He's a thug," Winees said.

Al-Briki said he looks forward to writing the first song after Gadhafi is ousted.

What will it be called? "Finally He Did It," said al-Briki.

Classic HK ghost film reinvented 24 years later

HONG KONG (AP)—When "A Chinese Ghost Story" hit movie screens in 1987, it wowed audiences with its novel plot of man falls for female demon in an ancient Chinese setting. The unlikely couple played by late Hong Kong superstar Leslie Cheung and Taiwanese actress Joey Wang quickly became a classic romance and two sequels followed, as well as an animated movie.

Twenty-four years later, Hong Kong director Wilson Yip has re-imagined the love story for a wider audience with a new cast, a new plot twist and modern special effects. While the original was released during the heyday of Hong Kong cinema, the remake is largely targeted at the lucrative mainland market, where censors once averse to superstition are now more open to supernatural-themed productions.

The 1987 version, directed by veteran filmmaker and action choreographer Tony Ching, takes inspiration from "Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio," Qing Dynasty writer Pu Songling's famed collection of ghost stories. Cheung's scholar-turned-tax collector Ning Caichen becomes smit-

ten with Wang's Nie Xiaoqian, a lonely demon who serves as a hunter for a tree devil who preys on human beings. Ning solicits the help of demon catcher Yan Chixia to free Nie of her enslavement.

Yip, whose career has taken off with the recent success of the kung fu biopics "Ip Man" and "Ip Man 2," both starring Donnie Yen, has cast two baby-faced young Chinese actors as the new couple.

Yu Shaoqun, who rose to fame as a young Mei Lanfang in Chen Kaige's 2008 biopic of the late Peking Opera singer, plays the innocent scholar. Liu Yifei, who made her Hollywood debut in "The Forbidden Kingdom," the 2008 kung fu picture that marked the first collaboration between Jackie Chan and Jet Li, is the distraught ghost torn between love and servitude.

But the director has also spiced up the drama by adding a back story of Nie's earlier romance with Yan, casting Hong Kong heartthrob Louis Koo as the gruff ghost hunter.

Veteran Hong Kong actress Wai Ying-hung, who is enjoying a career

renaissance, plays the tree devil—a role taken on by actor Lau Siu-ming in the original.

And then there is the advancement in computer graphics in the nearly two-and-a-half decades between original and remake. While the original boasted convincing creature effects and won a Hong Kong Film Award for Yee Chung-man's art design—Yee went on to receive an Oscar nomination for his work on Zhang Yimou's 2006 costume drama "Curse of the Golden Flower"—Yip has the benefit of an unfettered digital canvas, backed up by a \$10 million budget—some 70 percent of which was devoted to special effects.

Yip said he was drawn to Yu's innocence in the Mei Lanfang biopic, "Forever Enthralled," while by casting Liu as Nie, he wanted to instill a livelier personality.

"Her emotions are like that of a small animal, like a fox. Her active personality is unlike the melancholic tone of the previous version," Yip told The Associated Press at the movie's Hong Kong premiere late Saturday. The film was released in



Hong Kong actor Louis Koo, left and actress Kara Hui attend the movie premiere of their latest movie 'A Chinese Ghost Story' in Hong Kong, Saturday, April 23, 2011.

mainland China on Tuesday.

Koo told the AP that he thought Liu captured Nie's otherworldliness and unvarnished beauty well while Yu pulled off the scholar's contrasting qualities of physical weakness and mental determination.

Meanwhile, the addition of the ghost-ghost catcher romance creates dramatic tension. "I tried to evoke the question of whether (ghost catcher) Yan is jealous of (scholar) Ning?" Yip said.

Modern computer technology allowed him "to construct a world that is truly magical," the director said.

Yu had the unenviable task of trying to match the performance of the late Cheung, who committed suicide by leaping off a luxury hotel in 2003. Cheung was one of Chinese pop's biggest acts and earned critical acclaim for his on-screen performances in works such as "Days of Being Wild," "Happy Together" and "Farewell My Concubine."

Yu said he didn't think too much about following in Cheung's footsteps during shooting but is now aware of the comparisons after the movie's release.

"There is that classic performance whose fans won't allow you to alter it," Yu told the AP.

"I am no match for Ge Ge in terms of acting skills," he said, using Cheung's nickname. "Ge Ge's artistic heights are hard for me to surpass at this stage. All I can say is that I devoted my full emotions and my hard work to perfecting the role the director assigned to me as much as possible."

Bahrain crown prince declines royal wedding invite

LONDON (AP)—Bahrain's crown prince on Sunday declined an invitation to attend Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding, saying he did not want the Gulf nation's unrest to tarnish the celebration.

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa sent his regrets to Prince Charles after questions emerged over the British monarchy's decision to invite a member of Bahrain's Sunni ruling family, which has waged a wide-ranging crackdown against Shiite protesters calling for more freedoms.

Bahrain's rulers have imposed martial law and are backed by a Saudi-led military force to try to quell the uprising. At least 30 people have died in Bahrain since mid-February, including four who died while in official custody, and many well-known



In this Monday, June 11, 2007 file photo the Crown Prince of Bahrain, Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, right, speaks during the 96th International Labor Organization, ILO, Assembly at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

activists and lawyers have been imprisoned.

The news helped to avoid a potentially awkward situation during the April 29 wedding. Campaigners in Britain complained when palace officials said Saturday that the prince was attending the nuptials, and some petitioned Foreign Secretary William Hague to revoke the invitation.

Prince Salman said he was "saddened and troubled" by British reports about his attendance.

"While these (media reports) have certainly highlighted a number of significant issues currently facing the Kingdom of Bahrain, they have fundamentally misrepresented my own views, outlook and position on recent events and thus, clearly sought to involve my potential attendance as a po-

litical proxy for wider matters involving Bahrain."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman confirmed that it was informed Sunday about the prince's decision.

The prince said Bahrain has the highest respect for Britain's royal family, and that he wished William and Middleton

"all good wishes for Friday and every possible happiness for the future ahead."

Al Khalifa was among more than 40 foreign royals invited to the wedding. Other foreign royals who are attending include kings, queens, princes and princesses from countries including Denmark, Norway, Spain, Saudi Ara-

bia, Thailand, and Swaziland.

The royals will mingle with a handful of celebrities, including soccer star David Beckham and his wife Victoria, singer Elton John, director Guy Ritchie and Mr. Bean actor Rowan Atkinson.

About 1,900 people were invited to the Westminster Abbey ceremony.



In this publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, animated characters, from left, Raphael, voiced by George Lopez, Blu, voiced by Jesse Eisenberg, and Jewel, voiced by Anne Hathaway, are shown in a scene from "Rio."

'Rio' speaks louder than 'Madea,' repeats at No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anne Hathaway and Jesse Eisenberg's talking birds have edged out Tyler Perry's sass-talking grandma at the weekend box office.

Hathaway and Eisenberg's animated family adventure "Rio" took in \$26.8 million to remain the No. 1 movie for the second-straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family" debuted a close second with \$25.8 million, another solid opening for writer-director Perry, who also stars as boisterous, opinionated grandma Madea.

Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson's circus romance "Water for Elephants" premiered in third-place with \$17.5 million.

"It's nice to have two movies in the top-three," said Bert Livingston, distribution executive for 20th Century Fox, which released both "Rio" and "Water for Elephants."

The weekend's other new wide release, Disney's nature documentary "African Cats," opened at No. 6 with \$6.4 million.

Morgan Spurlock's product-placement documentary "POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold" opened with fair but unremarkable business in limited release.

The latest from the maker of the hit documentary "Super Size Me" took in \$135,139 in 18 theaters, averaging \$7,508 a cinema. That compares to an \$11,254 average in 2,288 theaters for "Madea's Big Happy Family," which had by far the best cinema average among the top-10 movies.

Hollywood scored its second-straight weekend of rising revenues, good news for studios that have been in a box-office slide since last fall.

Receipts totaled \$138 million, up 39 percent from the same weekend last year, when "How to Train Your Dragon" was No. 1 with \$15.4 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The upward trend likely will continue next weekend with "Fast Five," the latest movie in "The Fast and the Furious" action franchise, expected to have a huge opening, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"I think we're going to have three up weekends in a row, and for us, that's a roll. We've been down for so long," Dergarabedian said. "It really points out how cyclical this business is."

A love-bird story centered on rare parrots, "Rio" raised its domestic total to \$81.3 million. The movie has taken in \$204.7 million

more overseas, for a worldwide haul of \$286 million.

"Rio" held on well to its audience, revenues dropping a scant 32 percent in the second weekend, while "Water for Elephants" came in a bit above industry expectations.

Adapted from the best-selling novel, "Wa-

ter for Elephants" features Witherspoon as the star of a Depression-era circus, with Pattinson co-starring as a veterinarian who falls for her despite her jealous, tyrannical husband.

"It felt like old-time filmmaking for me and I think for the audience," Livingston said. "I think it's going to play for a long time. People are going to talk about it."

While Perry's latest "Madea" flick was unable to knock "Rio" off its perch, the filmmaker has been a prolific and consistent box-office earner, averaging two movies a year for distributor Lionsgate over the last four years.

"He has the most loyal fan base that I certainly have ever been associated with," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate. "They just continue to come out and flock to the cinemas and see his movies, whether it's a drama or comedy. He knows how to speak to his audience."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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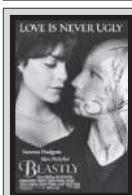
Madea's Big Happy Family

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Tyler Perry, Loretta Devine
 Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When her five grown-up children fail to answer her call for a family gathering, exasperated mother Shirley calls on outspoken force of nature Madea to see that everyone comes together to discuss some rather important issues in this filmed stage play written and directed by Tyler Perry. With everyone finally assembled thanks to Madea's tenacity, Shirley addresses some important family secrets, reveals that she's in the midst of a financial crisis, and engages her sons and daughters in a serious talk about drugs.



Beastly

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A curse transforms a handsome and arrogant young man into everything he detests in this contemporary retelling of Beauty and the Beast. Wealthy Kyle Kingdon (Alex Pettyfer) has everything a teenager could want in life, but he still gets off on humiliating the weaker and less attractive. When Kyle invites his misfit classmate Kendra (Mary-Kate Olsen) to an environmental rally at their school, she questions his motivations but reluctantly accepts. Later, Kyle blows Kendra off, prompting the spurned goth girl to cast a dark spell on the swaggering egotist.



Arthur

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Russell Brand, Jennifer Garner
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Arthur is a sweet but wildly irresponsible playboy whose millions have left him lonely and with no motivation in life. On the threshold of an arranged marriage with a simpering socialite whom he does not love, Arthur meets the spunky, blue-collar waitress Linda Marolla, and falls head over heels. However, just as he begins to pursue a relationship with Linda, his father and iron-willed grandmother threaten to pull the plug on his huge inheritance if he doesn't honor his position in life and go through with his marriage.



Rio

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
 Children's/family • Rated G



Scream 4

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Neve Campbell, David Arquette
 Horror • Rated R



Hanna

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



Hop

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:05	

James Marsden, Russell Brand
 Children's/family • Rated PG

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In this Sept. 26, 2009 file photo, Brian McKnight performs during the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation for Education's Grand Slam for Children benefit concert in Las Vegas.

Brian McKnight tells his story through song

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Master balladeer Brian McKnight brings his velvety voice to New Orleans on Saturday for a night of love and laughter as he prepares to open his “Just Me” tour and give fans a taste of what’s to come when his 14th album drops this summer.

The show opens with sets by R&B singers Avant and Vivian Green and comedian Lavell Crawford. McKnight said the New Orleans date has been on his schedule for a while and is not a part of the tour, which begins May 12 in Phoenix.

“New Orleans is just getting me,” McKnight said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “My one-man show. I’m coming to do what people haven’t seen from me. I’ll be telling a story, my story, from the beginning until now. People have heard me play with a band for the last 15, 20 years. This will be how I started, with a piano and a guitar.”

The tour is a family affair. It will include the a capella, Grammy Award-winning group Take 6, founded by his older brother Claude McKnight, and his sons, 21-year-old Brian Jr. (known as

BJ) and 19-year-old Cole Nicholas (known as Niko), who front the fledgling rock band BRKN RBTZ (broken robots).

McKnight, 41, a singer-songwriter who also plays nine instruments, has been honing the acoustic-style show for the past year and takes fans on a trip through his 18-year musical repertoire. He said he was a little skeptical of how the fans would respond, but has been buoyed by their reaction.

“I wasn’t sure if people would accept just me,” he said. “People’s senses are constantly inundated by the Internet and I didn’t know if people would be able to sit still and deal with me telling this story this way, but they have.”

McKnight’s latest project, entitled “Just Me,” is set for release July 12. He said the new music will give his fans some of his signature, silky smooth sounds, but will also give them a little something different.

“For me it’s never about doing the same thing over and over,” he said. “I just do what I do.”

McKnight acknowledges that his voice conjures romantic visions - especially in his female fans—and though most of his

songs often tackle romance or the back-and-forth of relationships, that’s not him all the time.

“Unfortunately, I am the least romantic man ever,” he said laughing. “I’m a guy’s guy. But I’m not sure most women would want that ‘romantic’ person 24 hours a day anyway. Too much of that would probably not be a good thing.”

Still, he said, there’s a time and a place for his type of music.

“My voice lends itself to singing a slower song,” he said. “I still believe when you want to get close to someone, it’s my type of music you put on. I doubt if they’re listening to Jay-Z at that moment—not that there’s anything wrong with Jay-Z. He’s great.”

McKnight said he believes music these days “has lost its ability to connect emotionally with the listener.”

“I’m not sure if that’s the music’s fault or the listener’s fault,” he said. “But I find there’s a trend of not wanting to be vulnerable. Folks don’t want to hear ‘love’ songs because very few people find love. And hearing it over and over again, or seeing the happy ending in the

movie over and over again and knowing that it’s not true or unattainable can be draining. So instead, they want to go out and have fun and party and that’s what today’s music reflects.

“You have to sing a certain way because the audience wants what it wants and radio dictates that you have to try to fool people with a beat and a groove.”

McKnight, who’s been nominated 16 times for a Grammy without a win, said he’s not sure what his next musical move will be. He’ll be doing the U.S. tour through September.

“Then it’s on to Europe and South Africa later in the year,” he said. “But I pretty much live in the moment. I’m just really happy right now watching my boys’ careers take off.”

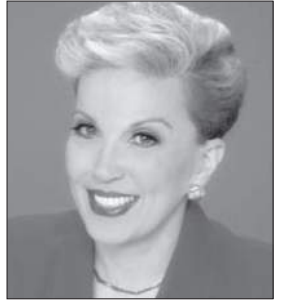
BJ’s voice has been compared to his father’s, while Niko also sings and plays guitar. McKnight said he’s looking forward to exposing them to the world during the upcoming tour.

“I am so excited to be able to put this together. It’s going to be incredible - nine of the best voices you’ve ever heard assembled on one stage,” he said. “It’s going to be great.”

Freebies from charities can be used without feeling guilt

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I’m writing in response to “Feeling Guilty in North Carolina” (March 18), who feels guilty using address labels, calendars and notepads from organizations soliciting donations. Last year, for about six months, I collected all the requests for donations I received. Abby, the total was 532 requests from 119 organizations! Yes, I’m overwhelmed, and I no longer feel guilty about tossing them. I sent all of them letters requesting they delete my name from their lists. One hundred eighteen ignored my request. One asked how often I want information from them.



Dear Abby

I give the notepads and other enclosures to Goodwill and shred the labels. Ironically, I receive more labels now than ever before, even though I pay most bills online and email rather than write. I donate less than I ever have in the past because I feel so hounded, so in my case, it has worked against them.

KAREN H. IN FORT COLLINS, COLO.

DEAR KAREN: Thanks for the input. Letters from readers complaining about charitable donation requests with labels arrive in my office on a daily basis, so you can imagine the mail I have received in response to the one I printed from “Feeling Guilty.” Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, receive many “gifts” from organizations soliciting for donations. My view is, if they’re using my donation to send gifts, then they really don’t need my money. They should be using donations to help whomever or whatever it is they’re soliciting for. I don’t feel guilty in the least for using the labels, gifts, etc. I give to organizations that do not send out freebies; that’s how I direct my charitable donations.

SABRINA W., SOUTHGATE, MICH.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a professional fundraiser and I, too, receive the pads and address labels. I do not give to every organization that sends them, but I do use what they send. No one should feel guilty for doing so. Nonprofits buy and rent lists from companies, and they don’t expect everyone to respond. Nonprofits aren’t trying to make anyone feel guilty or trick them; they just want to do the work of the causes you love to support.

SUZANNE L., STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many solicitation letters have a small box at the bottom asking you to indicate if you would like to be taken off their mailing list. It’s worth the 44 cents to return it.

Some areas recycle junk mail. After removing the address labels, the rest can be put in the recycling bin with newspapers. Note pads, greeting cards and calendar gifts could be donated to a military personnel drive, thrift store, nursing home or community center.

MARY F., STUART, FLA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We contacted the post office and were instructed not to open the envelope, to write “Refused—Return to Sender” on the front and put it back in the mailbox. The post office can then decide what to do with it.

SANDRA M., MUKWONAGO, WIS.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There’s nothing “free” when organizations try to guilt us into sending money. My solution for all this junk is, use the labels and anything personalized if I like them; if not, destroy them. Anything else I give to a nursing home, local children’s museum to use for crafts or to the Goodwill. When coins are attached, I put them in a jar and give them to my church.

CLAIRE P., PORTLAND, MAINE

Sony ‘rebuilding’ PlayStation Network after outage

NEW YORK (AP)—Sony Corp. said it is rebuilding its PlayStation Network to bring it back online after an “external intrusion” caused it to suspend the service.

The company said it turned off the service, which lets gamers connect in live play, so that it could strengthen its network infrastructure. Qriocity—the company’s online entertainment

platform—was also affected.

“Though this task is time-consuming, we decided it was worth the time necessary to provide the system with additional security,” the company said in a blog post Saturday. An email message to the company seeking further details was not immediately returned.

The PlayStation Network and Qriocity had been turned off

Wednesday evening so that the company could investigate an external intrusion. The company said the following day that it could take a “full day or two” to get the service back up and running.

On Saturday, the company said in a blog post that it was “working around the clock” to bring the services back online.

“We thank you for your patience to date and ask for a little

more while we move towards completion of this project,” the company said in the post.

The outage came just after Tuesday’s release of the game “Mortal Kombat,” which is available on the PlayStation 3 and Microsoft Corp.’s Xbox 360. It also comes as Amazon.com restores computers used by other major websites as an outage stretched into a fourth day.

Flamboyant music producer Huey Meaux dead at 82

DALLAS (AP)—Huey P. Meaux, who discovered recording artists Doug Sahm and Barbara Lynn before scandal and prison ended Meaux’s career, has died. He was 82.

Meaux’s nephew, Larry

Meaux Jr., says his uncle died Saturday morning of multiple organ failure at his Southeast Texas home in Winnie, about 60 miles east of Houston. In addition to discovering Barbara Lynn and San Antonio-born singer-

songwriter Doug Sahm, Meaux revived the recording career of Freddy Fender. Meaux produced Fender’s chart-topper “Before the Next Teardrop Falls.”

In 1996, police raided Meaux’s studio in Houston and found

hundreds of videotapes and photos of him having sex with underage girls. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to molesting a teenage girl and other charges. He was released four years ago.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

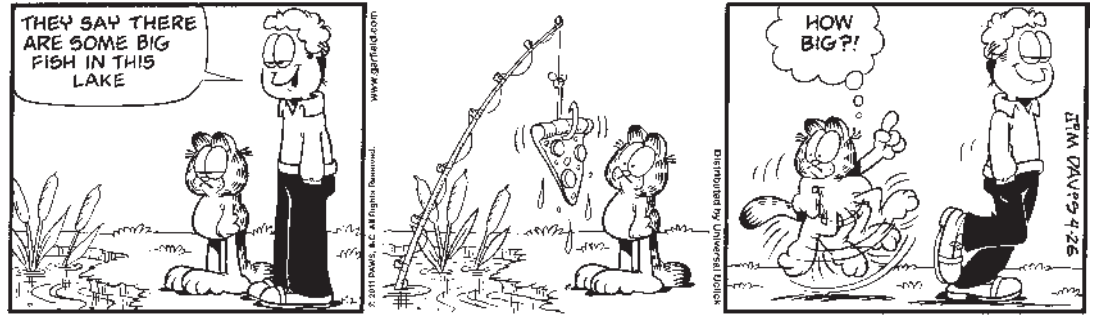
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



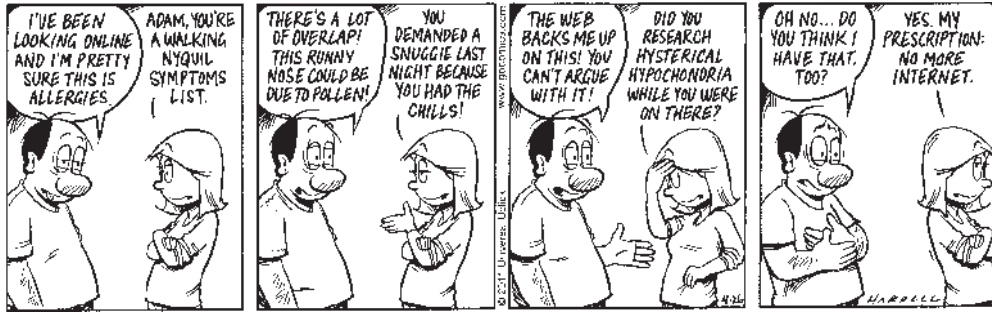
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

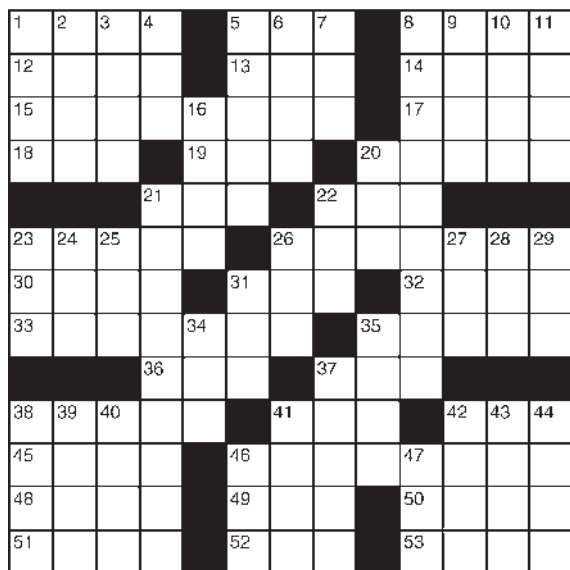
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Temperate
5 Tennis ball container
8 Pedestal part
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Surprised cry
14 Press part
15 Find
17 Ledge
18 Curvy letter
19 Jewel
20 — anteater
21 Parched
22 Scratch
23 Singer Gorme
26 Unknown woman
30 Greets the villain
31 Use a ray gun
32 Sunrise
33 Meat dealer
35 London newspaper
36 Coffee vessel
37 A welcome sight?
- DOWN**
- 1 Fashion
2 Rainbow
3 Not so much
4 Medic
5 Small flock
6 Attention getter
7 Neither partner
8 Drag through the mud
9 Met melody
10 Barbie, e.g.
11 Sans siblings
16 Shrek, for one
20 — Diego
21 Talked about
22 Navigation aid
23 Recede
24 Second person
25 E-mail address component
26 Discordance
27 Beavers' construct
28 Have bills
29 Type measures
31 Buddhist sect
34 Day portions (Abb.)
35 Body powder
37 Johnny Mathis classic
38 Wagers
39 Chess piece
40 Opposed to
41 Shaving mishap
42 Milne bruin
43 Catch sight of
44 Capone foe
46 Two, in Tijuana
47 Depressed

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-26



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Channing Tatum, 31; Tom Welling, 34; Kevin James, 46; Carol Burnett, 78

Happy Birthday: Don't get so busy that you forget the small but important aspects of your life. You don't want to neglect the people who have always been there for you or forget to take a little time to enjoy yourself and your family. Too much of anything will lead to impatience and a lot of stress. Your numbers are 2, 15, 18, 21, 32, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Interacting with others will lead to knowledge and connections beneficial for your future. A love relationship will undergo positive changes. Group activities will pay off if you learn something new or develop a talent you possess. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Affairs of the heart may not be easy to understand. A one-sided relationship will jade you if you allow it to go on too long. You will develop a lasting friendship with someone new if you get involved in a cause you believe in. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your humor, together with your charm, will attract attention if you participate in community or group affairs. Don't hold back; let others know exactly what you think. A function at your local museum, science center or art gallery will spark new and creative ideas for helping others. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Difficulties will develop while dealing with partners. If you don't do a good job sorting

through the problems that arise, you will face complaints. Losses will occur if you are careless or frivolous. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do something exciting. You can make a profit if you invest in something you enjoy doing and can offer as a service to others. You can make favorable physical changes with a fitness, diet and nutrition program. Love is on the rise. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can achieve your goals if you present your ideas to superiors. Don't hold back because of your own insecurities. Sizing down or reducing your debt will help ease stress and allow you to follow a path that suits you better. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Catch up on time spent with family before someone you love cries neglect. Discuss personal problems and you can find a solution that works for everyone. A regimented routine will ease your stress and make you feel better about the way you look. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Say what you think. Your ability to get your point across may be hurtful but it will be appreciated. A meddler will cause friction or mislead you. Do your own fact-finding. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Start discussions that will give you the freedom to make beneficial changes to your home and family. Run your ideas and concerns by anyone who could create a problem or stop you from following through. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you let personal problems take over, you will fall behind. You'll feel much better and can ease your stress if you do something you enjoy. Nurturing a personal relationship will help deter a mounting problem. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): With a little optimism regarding your plans, you can turn things around. Don't let criticism get you down. You can persuade those who count to look at what you are trying to achieve. Rely on past experience. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you work with may not see things the same way you do. Have the confidence to do your own thing. You work best when you follow your own ideas and instincts. ★★★

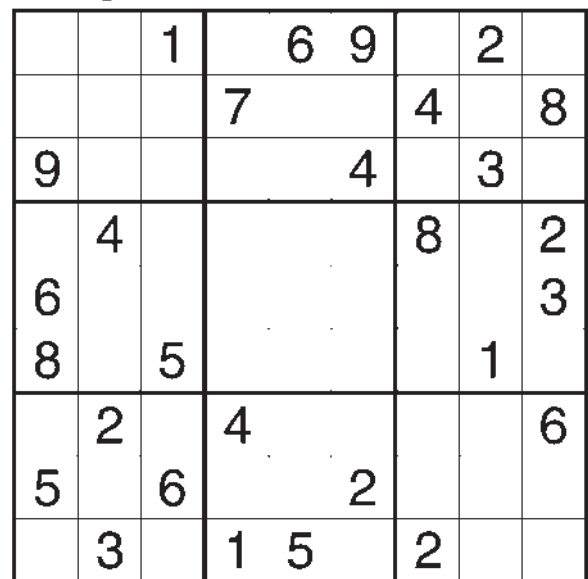
Birthday Baby: You are headstrong, willful and fun to be with. You look for adventure and can see the big picture.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



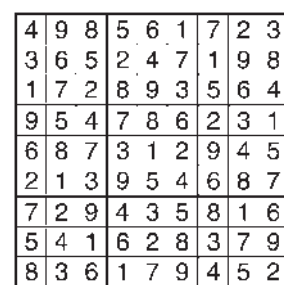
Difficulty Level ★★

4/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

4/25

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Solution: 8 letters



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Accounts, Address, Advance, Assets, Balance, Bank, Borrower, Budget, Cash, Commercial, Contract, Down, Easy, Expert, Fees, Finance, Global, Government, Guidance, Help, Legal, Lenders, License, List, Loan, Partners, Personal, Quotes, Rates, Records, Registration, Requirements, Resource, Risk, Rural, Save, Service, Shares, Sign, Sign, Terms, Tools
Yesterday's Answer: Vinegar
Tues: 1-10-11 11:00-11:30 AM, 11:30-12:00 PM, 12:00-12:30 PM, 12:30-1:00 PM, 1:00-1:30 PM, 1:30-2:00 PM, 2:00-2:30 PM, 2:30-3:00 PM, 3:00-3:30 PM, 3:30-4:00 PM, 4:00-4:30 PM, 4:30-5:00 PM, 5:00-5:30 PM, 5:30-6:00 PM, 6:00-6:30 PM, 6:30-7:00 PM, 7:00-7:30 PM, 7:30-8:00 PM, 8:00-8:30 PM, 8:30-9:00 PM, 9:00-9:30 PM, 9:30-10:00 PM, 10:00-10:30 PM, 10:30-11:00 PM, 11:00-11:30 PM, 11:30-12:00 AM, 12:00-12:30 AM, 12:30-1:00 AM, 1:00-1:30 AM, 1:30-2:00 AM, 2:00-2:30 AM, 2:30-3:00 AM, 3:00-3:30 AM, 3:30-4:00 AM, 4:00-4:30 AM, 4:30-5:00 AM, 5:00-5:30 AM, 5:30-6:00 AM, 6:00-6:30 AM, 6:30-7:00 AM, 7:00-7:30 AM, 7:30-8:00 AM, 8:00-8:30 AM, 8:30-9:00 AM, 9:00-9:30 AM, 9:30-10:00 AM, 10:00-10:30 AM, 10:30-11:00 AM, 11:00-11:30 AM, 11:30-12:00 PM, 12:00-12:30 PM, 12:30-1:00 PM, 1:00-1:30 PM, 1:30-2:00 PM, 2:00-2:30 PM, 2:30-3:00 PM, 3:00-3:30 PM, 3:30-4:00 PM, 4:00-4:30 PM, 4:30-5:00 PM, 5:00-5:30 PM, 5:30-6:00 PM, 6:00-6:30 PM, 6:30-7:00 PM, 7:00-7:30 PM, 7:30-8:00 PM, 8:00-8:30 PM, 8:30-9:00 PM, 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Celtics score series sweep over Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—The Boston Celtics swept their way into the Eastern Conference semifinals, holding on for a 101-89 victory over the New York Knicks on Sunday.

Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 10 rebounds, Rajon Rondo added 21 points and 12 assists for the Celtics, the first team into the second round after sweeping a series for the first time since a 3-0 victory over Indiana in 1992.

They had a 23-point lead cut to four in the fourth quarter, but pulled away again behind Garnett, who scored 20 after halftime.

The Celtics could now have a week off while they wait for likely second-round opponent Miami, which was forced to a fifth game earlier Sunday after a late rally by Philadelphia.

Carmelo Anthony had 32 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, and Amare Stoudemire, who decided to play after his back felt better, finished with 19 points and 12 boards but shot only 5 of 20 from the field.

The Knicks shot 34 percent and were quickly dispatched in their first playoff appearance since 2004, when they were also swept in the first round. They haven't won a playoff game in 10 years.

"It was all heart. He just gave it all. With him and Carmelo going forward, the Knicks are in good shape," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said.

The Knicks shot 34 percent and were quickly dispatched in their first playoff appearance since 2004, when they were also swept in the first round. They haven't won a playoff game in 10 years.

"Tonight was one of those games that we have to leave it all out on the court. Wasn't no need to take anything home with us, and we did that," Anthony said. "So I'm pretty sure that we gained a lot of respect

from a lot of people right now, but this is the first step of something great."

The Celtics were only 10-11 in their last 21 games of the regular season, struggling to adjust to a changed lineup after trading center Kendrick Perkins to Oklahoma City at the deadline and renewing questions they were too old.

The Knicks believed they could challenge them, but Chauncey Billups was lost for good after straining his left knee in the final minute of Game 1 and Stoudemire was never the same after hurting his back during warmups before Game 2.

Meanwhile, the Celtics got better as the series went along, pulling out two close victories in Boston and saving their best for Madison Square Garden, surrounded in orange as it was finally open for postseason basketball again.

But that couldn't shake the Celtics, who held the Knicks to three field goals in the second quarter to seize control.

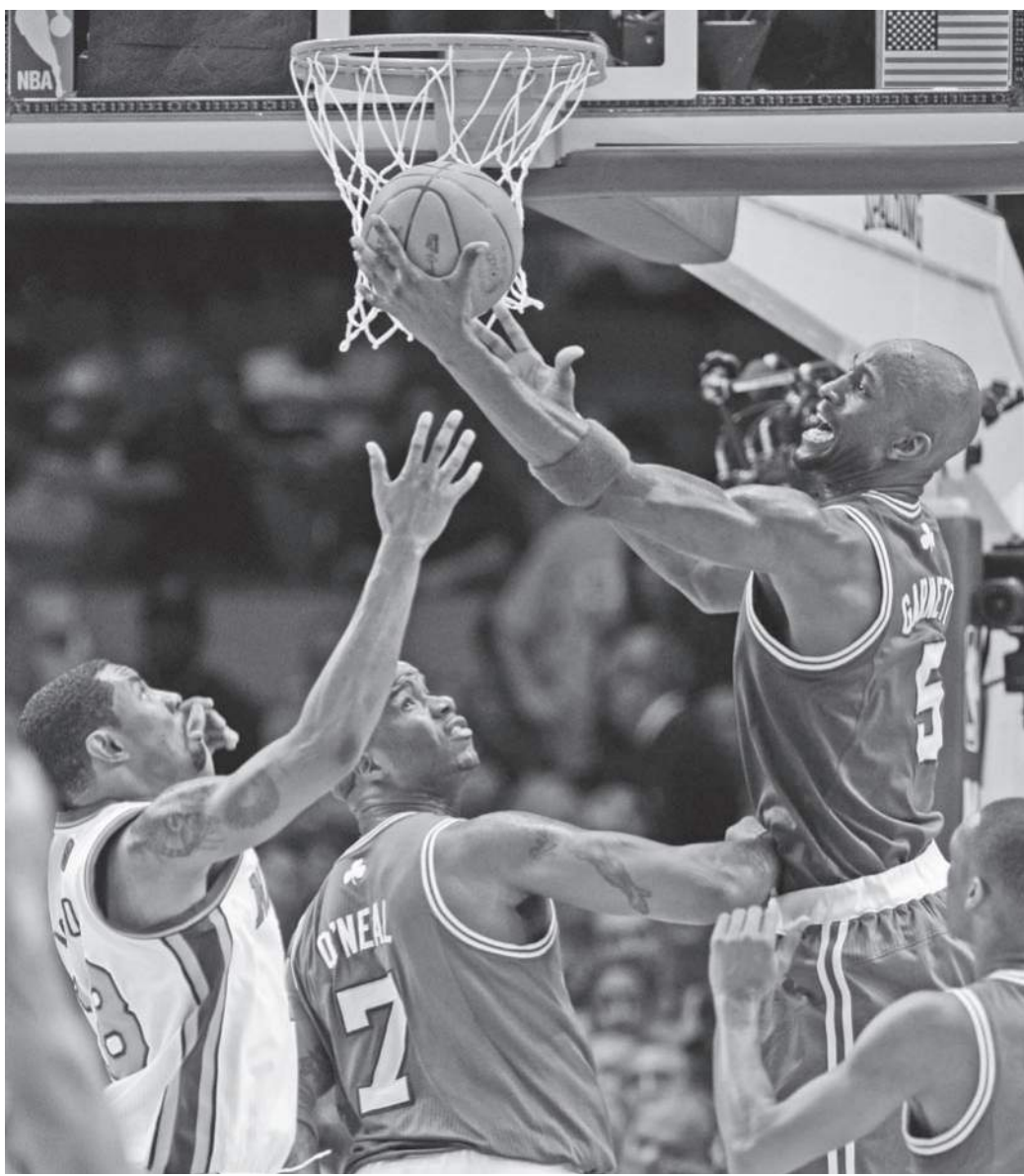
Garnett made three straight field goals to make it 70-48 in the third quarter before the Celtics let the Knicks back into it. Consecutive run-out dunks by Anthony cut it to 14, and New York had it all the way down to 10 when Shawne Williams' 3-pointer with 36 seconds remaining trimmed it to 82-72 after three.

Stoudemire opened the fourth with a basket and Anthony followed, bringing it within six and forcing coach Doc Rivers to put Garnett back into the game. He made a pair of free throws, but baskets by Stoudemire and Anthony Carter made it 84-80 with 7:34 to go.

"I thought we dropped the guard a little bit," Rivers said. "Give them credit, I thought they played desperate and you could see it in their play and their defensive energy."

Hornets 93, Lakers 88

At New Orleans, Chris Paul



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) pulls down a rebound in front of New York Knicks guard Roger Mason (left), as Celtics center Jermaine O'Neal (7) watches during the second half of Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, at Madison Square Garden in New York on Sunday, April 24, 2011. The Celtics won, 101-89, and swept the series.

picked an opportune time for his first triple-double of the season.

Paul had 27 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds, and the New Orleans Hornets held on for a 93-88 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night to even their first-round playoff series at 2-2.

"It's huge for us," said Paul, who turned in the performance after spending Easter with family. "We wanted to bring a win to our fans in New Orleans. Happy we got this win on Easter. Hav-

ing my family here makes it more special."

Wearing a black wrap on his left hand and a small bandage over his right eye, Paul scored 14 of New Orleans' 24 points in the fourth quarter. The All-Star guard then capped his brilliant performance by running down the clock and setting up Jarrett Jack's short jumper, which made it 90-86 with 9.3 seconds left.

"Chris Paul, that was one of the better performances I've seen in the playoffs," Hornets

coach Monty Williams said. "A lot of guys score. He scored. He assisted. He rebounded."

Kobe Bryant had 17 points for the Lakers, but did not score in the first half and finished 5 of 18 shooting. He also came up lame late in the fourth quarter, favoring his left ankle after a collision with Willie Green. Bryant's last miss came on a 3-point attempt in the final seconds.

That forced Los Angeles to foul Jarrett Jack, and while the Hornets walked up the court,

Paul triumphantly cupped his hand around his ear to soak in the roar of approval from the packed and delirious New Orleans Arena.

"Regardless of what happens in this series, it was good to see the city with a smile on their face," said Paul, who hit 7 of 14 shots and all 11 of his free throws. "It was fun, man. I'm just so thankful to get to say this is my way of life."

76ers 86, Heat 82

At Philadelphia, Lou Williams hit a 3-pointer with 8.1 seconds left to lead Philadelphia over Miami and avoid a series sweep.

Jrue Holiday made a 3 with 46.6 seconds to get the 76ers to within one point, before Williams shot from the top of the arc gave the home team the lead.

Game 5 is Wednesday in Miami.

Williams and Evan Turner led the Sixers with 17 points each. Andre Iguodala added 16 points and Elton Brand had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

LeBron James scored 31 points for the Heat and Dwyane Wade 22.

Hawks 88, Magic 85

At Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and Joe Johnson hit four big free throws in the final 20 seconds to lead the Hawks to victory and a 3-1 lead over the Magic in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Hawks will try to wrap up the best-of-seven series Tuesday night in Orlando.

Atlanta made only 12 of 20 free throws, but Johnson came through when the Magic were forced to foul. Orlando had a last chance to tie it up, but Al Horford knocked the ball away from Hedo Turkoglu as he tried to get loose for a 3-pointer.

Turkoglu got the ball back with only enough time to force one up. It missed badly, and the Hawks celebrated a commanding series lead.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—The toughest part of Brandt Snedeker's day was spent in the clubhouse.

Snedeker posted an out-of-nowhere 7-under 64 on Sunday to come from six shots behind to finish in the lead at The Heritage nearly two hours before the round ended.

So Snedeker headed inside to watch, wait and see if he'd get back on the course. He eventually did, beating Luke Donald in a playoff Sunday and denying the Englishman a chance at No. 1.

"It was brutal," Snedeker said of his time in front of the TV.

"I don't want them to do bad, but I don't want them to do great, either."

In the end, Snedeker had the great finish, surviving against one of the world's best in a grit-

Snedeker wins Heritage, denies Donald top spot

ty three-hole playoff for his second career PGA Tour win and first since the 2007 Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C., in his rookie season.

"To win this time, after all the hard work I put in the last three or four years, trying to improve, trying to get better," he said. "I feel like my game is finally there."

It certainly was at Harbour Town Golf Links.

Snedeker birdied seven of his first 12 holes to grab the lead just as the final pair of Donald and defending champion Jim Furyk teed off. Then Snedeker closed the final round with a 12-foot birdie putt on the signature, closing lighthouse hole at No. 18.

"It's a storybook ending real-

ly, to be playing Luke in a playoff, to even have a chance to win was exciting to me," he said.

Donald would've risen to the top spot in the world from No. 3 had he won.

His countryman, Lee Westwood, moved from No. 2 to No. 1, replacing Martin Kaymer, after winning the Indonesian Masters earlier Sunday.

Donald saved par from difficult spots on the 71st and 72nd holes to force the playoff, then did it again on the second extra hole. But his luck ran out on Harbour Town Golf Links' closing lighthouse hole, No. 18, when he got a partially buried lie in a front bunker.



Donald blasted out about 15 feet from the flag and his chip for par from just off the green hit the back edge of the cup and bounced away, giving Snedeker the victory.

Snedeker said he was more worried about getting to New Orleans for next week's event when he woke up Sunday than contending for the title Sunday.

Tommy Gainey finished a stroke back after a 68.

Donald was the steadiest player most of the week at Harbour Town. He had birdies on the fourth and fifth holes to get to 13 under, but dropped back after bogeys on the seventh and 10th holes. He caught

Snedeker with a birdie on No. 13, then parred his way in for the playoff.

"It was going to be some big rewards if I won today," Donald said. "But I'll try and find the positives from this week and move on."

At least Donald leaves No. 1 at something, making \$615,000 to top of the PGA Tour money list.

This figured to come down to a final-round duel between the final pair of third-round leader Donald and Furyk, who was only a stroke behind at the start, until Snedeker's run.

"Kind of came out of nowhere," Snedeker said.

Donald certainly kept him on the edge of his seat.

After Donald's final birdie of regulation, he missed makeable birdie tries on the 15th and 16th holes. Then Donald looked like he'd shoot himself out of it, sending his tee shot on the par-3 17th off the back, then landing his approach into the bunker in front of No. 18. Both times Donald chipped within 4 feet to save par.

Snedeker and Donald traded birdies on the first extra hole, the 18th, and pars on the second one, the 17th.

Snedeker hit the green on the last playoff hole and two-putted for par to win \$1,026,000. The biggest question facing Snedeker now is whether he'll be back to defend his title.

The Heritage is without a title sponsor, something PGA Tour and event leaders say is essential for its return in 2012.

Halladay fans 14 as Phillies beat Padres



SAN DIEGO (AP)—The only good news for the San Diego Padres on Sunday was that the Philadelphia Phillies left town.

Then again, the Atlanta Braves are coming in for a series starting Monday night, and they just had a three-game sweep of the defending World Series champion San Francisco Giants.

Roy Halladay tied his career high with 14 strikeouts and the Phillies beat weak-hitting San Diego 3-1, coming within one out of their third shutout during a four-game sweep.

“Hopefully, this is our late August, early September of last year,” third baseman Chase Headley said. “Hopefully we can get it out of the way early this year and put some good months together.”

The Padres were cruising atop the NL West late last August when they lost 10 straight games. They stumbled through September and were eliminated from playoff contention in a loss at San Francisco on the season’s final day.

Halladay (3-1) took a two-hitter into the ninth before allowing three singles, including Will Venable’s RBI base hit with two outs. Antonio Bastardo came on with runners on first and third and got pinch-hitter Nick Hundley to fly out to left on his first pitch, for his first save.

Shane Victorino hit an inside-the-park home run leading off the seventh inning when his drive into the gap in right-center came off Venable’s glove as his arm hit the ground while trying to make a diving catch. The ball rolled into center as Victorino rounded the bases and came in with a headfirst slide. It was the first of his career.

The Phillies have won a season-high five straight. They’ve won 11 straight at Petco Park, and 15 of 16, since the 2008 season.

Halladay was so dominant, mostly with his split-fingered fastball, that San Diego didn’t get a baserunner past first base until the ninth. He allowed only five singles while walking one. Halladay, who struck out at least 10 for the 12th time in his career, fanned six straight at one point. He struck out everyone in the lineup except pitcher Wade LeBlanc.

He retired 16 in a row until allowing two singles in the ninth.

Braves 9, Giants 6, 10 innings

At San Francisco, Nate McLouth hit a two-run single off Brian Wilson with two outs in the 10th inning as the Atlanta Braves gained a 9-6 victory over San Francisco on Sunday.

Jason Heyward hit a three-run homer and double, then singled in the 10th as the Braves posted their first sweep of any kind in San Francisco since 1998.



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Halladay works in the first inning against the San Diego Padres in a baseball game, Sunday, April 24, 2011, in San Diego.

AP

Heyward and Chipper Jones started the inning with singles against Wilson (0-1) before Dan Uggla walked to load the bases. Wilson got two quick outs and nearly escaped the jam before McLouth’s ground-er up the middle provided the go-ahead runs.

Brian McCann added an RBI single off Dan Runzler.

Eric O’Flaherty (1-1) pitched two innings for the win, and Johnny Venters earned his first save of the season.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Andre Ethier extended his hitting streak to 21 games with an RBI single in a five-run first inning as Los Angeles won its fourth in five games.

Hiroki Kuroda (3-2) gave up three hits and two runs in the first, then scattered six hits over the rest of his 6 2-3 innings. Overall he allowed three runs—two earned—struck out seven and walked none.

Carlos Zambrano (2-1) worked five innings, giving up six runs and eight hits. He struck out four without walking a batter.

Brewers 4, Astros 1

At Milwaukee, Randy Wolf allowed four hits over eight sharp innings in Brewers’ win over Houston.

Rickie Weeks homered in his return after missing one game with a sprained left pinkie finger and Brandon Boggs also connected. Prince Fielder tripled for his NL-leading 21st RBI in the third inning.

Wolf (3-2) allowed four hits, two of them to Astros pitcher Wandy Rodriguez (1-3). J.R. Towles homered with two outs in the Houston eighth—it was the first run Wolf had allowed

since April 8 against Chicago.

Nationals 6, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Mike Morse scored a three-run homer among his three-hits to help Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Danny Espinosa had three hits with a run and Jason Marquis (2-0) also had two hits to raise his season average to .400 for Washington, which ended a three-game losing streak.

Neil Walker had three hits and an RBI for the Pirates, who have lost four of five.

Kevin Correia (3-2) failed in his attempt at becoming the first Pirates pitcher to win four games in the month of April since Jeff Suppan in 2003. He fell to 0-2 at home by allowing five runs on 11 hits and a walk in 4 2-3 innings with two strikeouts.

Marlins 6, Rockies 3

At Miami, Mike Stanton hit a tiebreaking three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning as Florida beat Colorado.

After Colorado scored twice in the top of the eighth, Omar Infante singled in the bottom half against Matt Belisle (2-1). With two out, Gaby Sanchez walked and Stanton hit the winning runs into the left-field seats.

Josh Johnson held the Rockies hitless until Dexter Fowler and Jonathan Herrera hit back to back doubles with two out in the sixth. He allowed three hits and one run in seven innings, moving his ERA from 1.00 to 1.06, still the best in the majors.

Mets 8, Diamondbacks 4

At New York, David Wright homered twice and Jason Pridie hit the first home run of his career in the Mets’ win over Arizona.

The victory gave the Mets a four-game winning streak, their first since Sept. 13-16.

Jonathon Niese (1-3) pitched seven innings for his first win of the year. Armando Galarraga (3-1) was gone after three innings for Arizona.

Ike Davis scored an RBI single in the fourth to extend his hitting streak to seven games.

Stephen Drew drove in two runs, but Chris Young went 0 for 4 for Arizona, dropping him to 2 for 25 on Arizona’s six-game road trip.

Cardinals 3, Reds 0

At St. Louis, Jake Westbrook recovered from only three days rest to throw six innings and Yadier Molina hit a three-run homer in the sixth off a tiring Edinson Volquez (2-1) in the St. Louis Cardinals’ victory.

The outing was the longest of the season for Westbrook (2-2), who entered with a 9.82 ERA and was hit for seven runs in three innings Wednesday against the Nationals.

The win moves St. Louis into outright first place in the NL Central Division.

Albert Pujols was removed for precautionary reasons after seven innings with mild tightness in right hamstring.

Brandon Phillips had a pair of doubles for the Reds, who were shut out for the first time and have lost nine of 11.

Red Sox 7, Angels 0

At Anaheim, John Lackey threw eight superb innings, Carl Crawford hit his first home run in a Boston uniform and the Red Sox completed a four-game sweep by beating the Los Angeles Angels 7-0 Sunday.

Lackey (2-2) scattered six hits, struck out six and stranded eight baserunners, becoming the third straight Boston starter to hold the Angels scoreless. The right-hander, who spent his first

eight major league seasons with the Angels, is 4-0 with a 2.45 ERA in four starts against them.

Adrian Gonzalez had three hits and two RBIs for the Red Sox.

Matt Palmer (1-1) allowed four runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Boston has won five in a row.

Rays 2, Blue Jays 0

At Toronto, James Shields pitched a four-hitter for his second consecutive complete game and Ben Zobrist hit a two-run homer to help Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Shields (2-1) struck out seven, walked two and lowered his ERA to 2.35. The Rays won for the 10th time in 14 games following a 1-8 start.

Shields threw just 95 pitches, wrapping up the game in a brisk 2 hours, 5 minutes.

Ricky Romero (1-3) lost despite striking out 10 in seven innings.

Tigers 3, White Sox 0

At Detroit, Max Scherzer allowed four hits in eight outstanding innings to help the Detroit Tigers complete a three-game sweep of the struggling White Sox.

Scherzer (4-0) struck out seven and walked three, helping Detroit shut out Chicago for a second straight day.

Chicago has lost 10 of 11 and now must head to New York for a four-game series against the Yankees. John Danks (0-3) allowed three runs on nine hits in six innings. He struck out eight and walked two.

Detroit has won nine straight over the White Sox.

Yankees 6, Orioles 3, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Russell Martin

singled home the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning as the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles for a two-game sweep.

In a thrilling game, Baltimore rallied from a three-run deficit against Joba Chamberlain and Rivera and both teams had a go-ahead run thrown out at the plate in the late innings.

The Yankees ultimately won on the strength of three infield hits and a couple of Baltimore errors in a wild 11th.

Boone Logan (1-1) got four outs, and Buddy Carlyle retired the final two batters. Jason Berken (0-1) took the loss.

Derek Jeter had four hits for Yankees.

Rangers 8, Royals 7

At Arlington, Texas, C.J. Wilson struck out 10 in seven innings, Adrian Beltre hit one of Texas’ three home runs and the Rangers completed a three-game weekend sweep over the Kansas City Royals.

Mike Aviles homered twice for the Royals, including a three-run shot with two outs in the ninth off Brett Tomko.

Arthur Rhodes then got the final out for his first save since 2008. The 41-year-old left-hander became the oldest player to get a save for Texas, only a day after 40-year-old Darren Oliver set that mark with regular closer Neftali Feliz on the disabled list.

Mike Napoli and Andres Blanco also homered for the Rangers.

Twins 4, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Jason Kubel hit a two-run double in the seventh inning that lifted the Minnesota Twins over the Cleveland Indians.

Carl Pavano (2-2) gave up three runs on six hits in seven innings. Justin Morneau added two hits and two RBIs for the Twins, who took a pair of rain-shortened games to win their first series of the season.

Matt Capps picked up his fourth save in five tries.

Rafael Perez (2-1) took the loss after giving up an unearned run on the double by Kubel.

Athletics 5, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Coco Crisp had three hits, scored three runs and stole a base, and Brett Anderson pitched seven strong innings as the Oakland A’s earned a series split with a win over the Seattle Mariners.

Crisp has six hits in his last two games, breaking a streak that saw him bat just .175 over the previous 15 games to help spark a previously dormant Oakland offense.

Anderson (2-1) allowed one earned run and struck out six.

Brian Fuentes came on in the eighth inning and struck out three of his four batters in picking up the save.

6 teams take lead in SEDA league

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Sniper Destroyers, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Ali'i Kamotes, Dosukebe Boys, D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Team Sang, Jonny's IT&E Kamote's and Buddies' Wild Shooters are the current frontrunners in their respective divisions in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after last week's games.

The Snipers were on a bye last week in the Masters division, but are still edging out Buddies Bar & Grill's Black Stallions (92-61) by 06.78 percentage points with their 91-45 record. Seven teams make up the division.

The Snipers' Pam Ybanez and Willy Cuesta are ranked third and fourth in the individual statistics among the 46-player field.

In the Tuesday B division, the Stallions defeated Jonny's Elite (60-76), 10-7, last Wednesday, while Oleai's D'Companeros (77-76) knocked off Round Bar's PIC Shooters (55-81), 13-4, and third-ranked D'Pirates' M-Destroyers (79-74) shot down Buddies' Flying Dartsman (56-97), 10-7.

In the C Kingfisher, Ali'i Kamotes defeated Buddies' Black Pearls (60-90), 10-5, last Tuesday to stretch its lead to 27 games against second ranked Buddies' Salbahe Brothers and improve to a 121-29 card. Eight teams make up the field.

Ali'i Kamote's Eric Pascual, Kaysie Aquino, PeeJay Naval and Jerome F. Sembrano are ranked second, third, sixth and 10th among the 50-player field.

In other results, D'Pirates Duruzi (51-99) upset Oleai's Matuas (74-76), 9-6,; Oleai's GCC Carpeters (72-78) stunned third-ranked D'Pirates Mixed-

Blood Shooters II (77-73), 10-5; and Salbahe Brothers defeated Jonny's Samurai (51-99), 10-5.

The Dosukebe Boys improved their card to 102-48 after squeaking past USSP Peleliu Club's Slow Hand, 8-7, last Wednesday. Scott Guerrero and Kento Togawa are ranked second and fourth among the 41-player field.

Jonny's Night Hawks (77-73) brushed off Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG (57-93), 11-4.

Team Sang trampled over Gaia Bar's Gaiana-C, 12-3, last Wednesday and improved its slate to 99-51. Second-ranked Chagi Fan of Buddies, is just 13 games behind Team Sang after putting down third-ranked One Shot (76-74), 9-6, while D'Pirates Lucky Shot (75-75) edged out Buddies' Black Pearls (53-97), 8-7.

IT&E Kamote's rolled through Buddies' Troubleshooters, 13-2, last Thurs-

day to improve to a 107-43 record and build a 20-game lead over Team Sabalu of Charlie's Sports Bar.

VFW Assashunz (82-68) upset Sabalu, 8-7; third-ranked Buddies' Akiramenai Buddy! (84-66) brushed off Gaia's Duruzi II (45-105), 13-2; and Oleai's Dart Pimps (66-84) downed Buddies' Barracuda (66-84), 10-5.

The Wild Shooters defeated USSP's Whatever, 10-5, last Thursday and improved its card to 89-61. They are now 10 games ahead of Naked Fish's Team Na'Gupu.

Wild Shooters' Jojo Guilas and George Medina are ranked first and seventh in the individual statistics among the 70-player field.

D'Pirates' Delubyo (74-76) stunned Na'Gupu, 8-7; Oleai's No Fear (78-72) defeated Gaia's Gaiana-B (69-81), 9-6; and VFW Dutty Gunz (77-73) edged Oleai's Why Not 976-74), 8-7.

3-on-3 caging deadline extended to Friday

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence SAFE Jamboree has extended the deadline for registration for its 3-on-3 basketball to Friday.

The 3-on-3 tournament will take place at the Koblerville Basketball Court, immediately following the Walk

Against Sexual Violence, which is scheduled to take place at 3pm, starting at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center. Registration for the walk is set from 2pm to 3pm and the first 200 entrants will receive a free t-shirt.

The tournament features three divisions with each team allowed to have a maximum of five players per roster. The open class is a family oriented division with parents and their children allowed to compete. The other two youth classes include the youth 9 to 12

year-old and the 13 to 16 year-old divisions. Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in all divisions.

Games will be played in half court with five-minute halves and a running clock. The elimination format will depend on the turnout. Volunteer referees from the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will also be on hand to officiate games.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services' Community Outreach Program

is organizing this year's First Annual SAFE Jamboree.

Other activity lined up for the inaugural event is the Rock Against Sexual Violence Concert from 4pm to 9pm, while food vendors and exhibit booths will be open throughout the jamboree.

For more information about the SAFE Jam email safejamboree@gmail.com or call 234-3878. To register for the 3-on-3 tournament, contact Abner Venus at 888-7764 or 322-0046.

NATIBU

From Page 28

Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League last week at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win extended Natibu's undefeated streak to 12 and put the team four games ahead of Phat Boyz (8-0), while X-clusive dropped to a 4-5 slate.

Other results last week show Man-Amigos triumphing over Berdax, 9-4, and G-Ballers run-ruling Familia, 15-5, in six innings. Man Amigos are currently ranked third with their 6-2 card, while the G-Ballers evened out their record to 5-5. Berdax's card fell to four wins with a handful of losses, while Familia is in the back of the pack with just two wins in 10 games.

Natibu 13, X-clusive 10

X-clusive took an early 3-0 lead in the opening frame. J.J. Cabrera drove in a run, while the other two came off

fielder's choices.

Then X-clusive pulled ahead, 6-0, in the bottom of the second off four hits and a fielder's choice. John Reyes and Cabrera knocked in a run apiece and the other came off an error.

In the top of the third, Natibu got a pair of runs back off a sacrifice fly by Nokki Saralu and an RBI single by JR Suel. Then Victor Salas led off the fourth with a solo homerun to halve the deficit, 3-6.

Natibu took the lead, 7-6, in the top of the fifth off a pair of two-run blasts by Saralu and Jerry Guerrero, but X-clusive went ahead 8-7 in the bottom frame off a sacrifice fly by Dennis Ngeskebei and a double by Cabrera.

Then both teams traded a pair of runs in the sixth inning. Natibu scored off errors and X-clusive got a two-run shot from Ralph Yumul.

Natibu showed up in the end and stole the lead, 13-10, off an RBI base rip by Bruce Norita and a clutch three-run

homer by Jun Saralu. Then the undefeated defending champion went on to hold X-clusive at bay in its final stand.

Man Amigos 9, Berdax 4

Man Amigos broke the ice with a two-run homer by Joey Dela Cruz in the first inning.

Then in the top of the fourth, Berdax took the lead, 3-2, off a three-run blast by Jack Guerrero. Later in the bottom of the fifth, Man Amigos shot ahead, 7-3, off three errors, an RBI base knock by Eric Palacios, and a two-run homer by Julian Camacho.

Berdax mustered only a run to start the sixth off a solo shot by Fred Kaipat, while Man Amigos answered with two runs in the bottom frame off an error and a sacrifice fly by Palacios.

G-Ballers 15, Familia 5

The G-Ballers struck first with two runs in the opening frame off an error and an

RBI single by Jun Salalila.

Familia managed a run to start the second off a base rip by Yubert Alepuyo, but the G-Ballers jumped ahead 9-1 in the bottom frame off errors, RBI singles by Rusty Santos and Jude Dickinson, and a two-RBI base rip by Jay Salalila.

Familia responded with three runs in the top of the third off an error and a couple of RBI singles by Ernest Sablan and John Paul Flores and managed another run to start the fourth off a base hit by Jonathan Sonoda. However, the G-Ballers maintained an 11-5 margin after the bottom frame off an error and an RBI single by Dickinson.

Familia's offense hit the wall after the fourth, while the G-Ballers' Gary Pangelinan belted a solo shot in the fifth and Lefty Shiro drove in a run in the bottom of the sixth before Brandon Hocog busted the walk off two-RBI double for the early decision. Hocog batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs.

LIM

From Page 28

the interpretation of the current laws and regulations of table tennis," Lim said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Lim was one of the only two deputy referees in the Guam tournament that concluded last night. The other was the Philippines' Rachel Ramos, who is also an accredited ITTF international umpire.

Lim was also one of the three CNMI representatives to the tournament, joining coach Jean Shi Shuquin and youth player David Yang.

5,000 athletes and officials expected to participate in the 15-day sportsfest.

The CNMI is among the more than 20 countries competing in the Pacific Games, but the Commonwealth will only have a lean delegation. Team Marianas will only be participating in athletics, beach volleyball, and golf.

VILLANUEVA

From Page 28

Park topped the 11-player U10 division after prevailing over Steven Goodwin in the finals, 8-3. Park, who blanked Joshua Abragan in the quarterfinals, 8-0, advanced to the finals after pulling off an 8-5 upset over top seed Clayton Izuka in the semifinals. Goodwin, who was ranked second in the draw and defeated Haruya Eda in the Round of 8, 9-8, nailed an 8-0 victory over Vincent Tudela in the other semis pairing to arrange a title duel against Park.

TECHNICAL

From Page 28

dy of Australia, tennis' Dan O'Connell of Fiji, football's David Chung of Papua New Guinea, golf's Greg Fitzhardinge of Australia, triathlon's Stephen Damien of Fiji, judo's John Buckley of Australia,

canoe's Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr of New Zealand, karate's Michel Mutlu of Tahiti, volleyball's Tomas Santamaria of Australia, powerlifting's Robert Wilks of Australia, and weightlifting's Paul Coffa of Australia.

Of the 28 sports lined up for this year's Pacific Games, only beach vol-

leyball has yet to name its technical delegate to the quadrennial competition. Technical delegates will be responsible for implementing rules of their respective International Federations in the various events in New Caledonia.

This year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to September 10 with over

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	6	.667	—
Tampa Bay	11	11	.500	3
Boston	10	11	.476	3 1/2
Toronto	9	12	.429	4 1/2
Baltimore	8	12	.400	5

Central Division

Cleveland	13	8	.619	—
Detroit	12	10	.545	1 1/2
Kansas City	12	10	.545	1 1/2
Minnesota	9	12	.429	4
Chicago	8	14	.364	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	14	7	.667	—
Los Angeles	12	10	.545	2 1/2
Oakland	11	11	.500	3 1/2
Seattle	8	15	.348	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	15	6	.714	—
Florida	13	7	.650	1 1/2
Washington	10	10	.500	4 1/2
Atlanta	11	12	.478	5
New York	9	13	.409	6 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	12	10	.545	—
Milwaukee	11	10	.524	1/2
Cincinnati	11	11	.500	1
Chicago	10	11	.476	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	9	12	.429	2 1/2
Houston	8	14	.364	4

West Division

Colorado	14	7	.667	—
Los Angeles	12	11	.522	3
San Francisco	10	11	.476	4
Arizona	8	12	.400	5 1/2
San Diego	8	14	.364	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 3, Chicago White Sox 0
Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 0
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3, 11 innings
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3
Texas 8, Kansas City 7
Boston 7, L.A. Angels 0
Oakland 5, Seattle 2
N.Y. Mets 8, Arizona 4
Florida 6, Colorado 3
Washington 6, Pittsburgh 3
Milwaukee 4, Houston 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, Chicago Cubs 3
Atlanta 9, San Francisco 6, 10 innings
Philadelphia 3, San Diego 1
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 0

HERITAGE GOLF SCORES

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (AP) — Scores Saturday from The Heritage, a US PGA Tour event at the 6,973-yard, par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links:

FINAL ROUND

x-Brandt Snedeker (500), \$1,026,000 69-67-72-64—272
Luke Donald (300), \$615,600 67-65-70-70—272
Tommy Gainey (190), \$387,600 71-67-67-68—273
Tim Herron (123), \$250,800 65-71-71-67—274
Ricky Barnes (123), \$250,800 71-67-67-69—274
Nick O'Hern (92), \$190,950 70-66-72-68—276
Ben Crane (92), \$190,950 69-66-71-70—276
Pat Perez (92), \$190,950 71-67-68-70—276
Kevin Na (70), \$142,500 70-68-73-68—277
Paul Goydos (70), \$142,500 72-67-70-68—277
Garrett Willis (70), \$142,500 64-69-74-67—277
Jason Day (70), \$142,500 69-65-71-72—277
Scott Verplank (70), \$142,500 67-70-73-73—277
Webb Simpson (54), \$91,200 69-69-72-68—278
Chris DiMarco (54), \$91,200 73-69-68-68—278
Spencer Levin (54), \$91,200 68-69-71-70—278
Chad Campbell (54), \$91,200 65-69-73-71—278
Aaron Baddeley (54), \$91,200 70-68-69-71—278
Jason Dufner (54), \$91,200 67-71-68-72—278
Chris Couch (54), \$91,200 68-68-70-72—278
Bio Kim (46), \$52,060 71-69-74-65—279
Fredrik Jacobsson (46), \$52,060 69-71-71-68—279
Brendan Steele (46), \$52,060 70-68-72-69—279
Brian Davis (46), \$52,060 68-74-68-69—279
Matt Kuchar (46), \$52,060 68-72-69-70—279
Michael Bradley (46), \$52,060 71-71-66-71—279
Mark Wilson (46), \$52,060 66-70-71-72—279
Brendon de Jonge (46), \$52,060 67-71-66-75—279
Jim Furyk (46), \$52,060 68-66-69-76—279
Stewart Cink (39), \$34,628 72-68-73-67—280
Billy Mayfair (39), \$34,628 70-68-73-69—280
Ryuji Imada (39), \$34,628 70-71-69-70—280
J.P. Hayes (39), \$34,628 70-67-72-71—280
Bill Haas (39), \$34,628 70-70-69-71—280
Carl Pettersson (39), \$34,628 71-69-69-71—280
Robert Garrigus (31), \$23,969 68-70-76-67—281
Jason Bohn (31), \$23,969 73-69-72-67—281
Ben Curtis (31), \$23,969 71-71-71-68—281
Jerry Kelly (31), \$23,969 68-71-73-69—281
Ian Poulter (31), \$23,969 69-66-75-71—281
Stephen Ames (31), \$23,969 72-68-69-72—281
Brian Gay (31), \$23,969 66-73-70-72—281
Camilo Villegas (31), \$23,969 66-66-74-73—281
Kevin Streelman (31), \$23,969 73-69-67-72—281
Jeff Klauk (31), \$23,969 69-71-68-73—281
Alex Cejka (23), \$15,504 69-73-70-70—282
David Hearn (23), \$15,504 72-70-69-71—282
D.J. Trahan (23), \$15,504 69-67-73-73—282
Blake Adams (23), \$15,504 67-71-71-73—282
Boo Weekley (23), \$15,504 69-70-70-73—282
Tim Petrovic (23), \$15,504 68-72-69-73—282
Troy Merritt (18), \$13,367 71-70-73-69—283
Nathan Green (18), \$13,367 69-69-74-71—283
Chris Riley (18), \$13,367 67-71-73-72—283
Trevor Immelman (18), \$13,367 69-71-73-72—283
Josh Teater (13), \$12,768 68-74-71-71—284
James Driscoll (13), \$12,768 70-70-71-73—284
Steve Flesch (13), \$12,768 72-70-69-73—284
Ben Martin (13), \$12,768 67-72-71-74—284
Greg Chalmers (13), \$12,768 74-65-71-74—284
Chad Collins (9), \$12,312 71-70-75-69—285
Heath Slocum (9), \$12,312 71-68-73-73—285
Graeme McDowell (9), \$12,312 68-69-74-74—285
Daniel Summerhays (7), \$12,027 73-66-73-74—286
Matt Bettencourt (7), \$12,027 65-73-70-78—286
Lee Janzen (4), \$11,742 70-71-74-72—287
Steve Elkington (4), \$11,742 68-72-74-73—287
Arjun Atwal (4), \$11,742 65-73-72-71—287
Will MacKenzie (2), \$11,457 71-69-77-71—288
Kris Blankens (2), \$11,457 71-69-74-74—288
Kent Jones (1), \$11,229 73-68-76-73—290
John Daly (1), \$11,229 70-72-74-74—290
Charlie Wi (1), \$11,058 72-70-73-77—292
(x-on on third playoff hole)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Docomo Easter Friendship Invitational Basketball Tournament



The Thunder's John Paul Villanueva pulls up for a jumper against Rollers during their U17 game.



MVP Gino Soulik of Guam Dragons goes for a left-handed shot.



Mong Mong Toto Maite Falcons' Ryan Dagsaan skies to the hoop during their U17 title match against Guam Dragons.

PHOTOS by WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



Rollers Basketball Club's Keolani Rios, right, accepts her award from RBC head coach Joe Diaz for being the only female participant in the tournament.



Guam Dragons' Austin Blaz begs for the ball while being defended by a Rollers player during their U12 game.



Mong Mong Toto Maite Falcons' pointguard Raymond Chargualaf is defended by Guam Dragons players during their U17 finals game.



Five-year-old Guam Dragons Basketball Club member David George (21), accompanied by brothers, from left, Justice, Jordan, and Jeremiah gladly accepts his prize for being the youngest participant in last week's 2nd Annual Docomo Easter Friendship Invitational Basketball Tournament played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



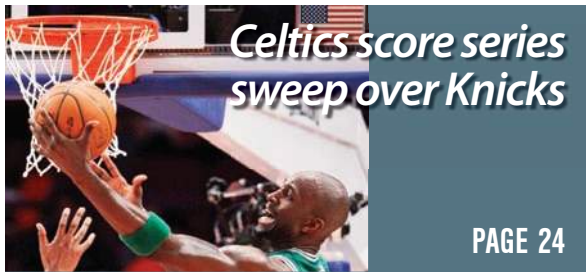
Guam Dragons' Justice George goes for a breakaway layup during their game against the Falcons.



Rollers and Thunder players battle for the rebound.



Guam Dragons' Felix Tomy (6) gets pounded down during their U17 finals rematch against the Mong Mong Toto Maite Falcons.



Celtics score series sweep over Knicks

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Halladay fans 14 as Phillies beat Padres

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011

Villanueva avenges loss to Ramsey

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The boys U12 singles championship is back on Moris Villanueva's hands.

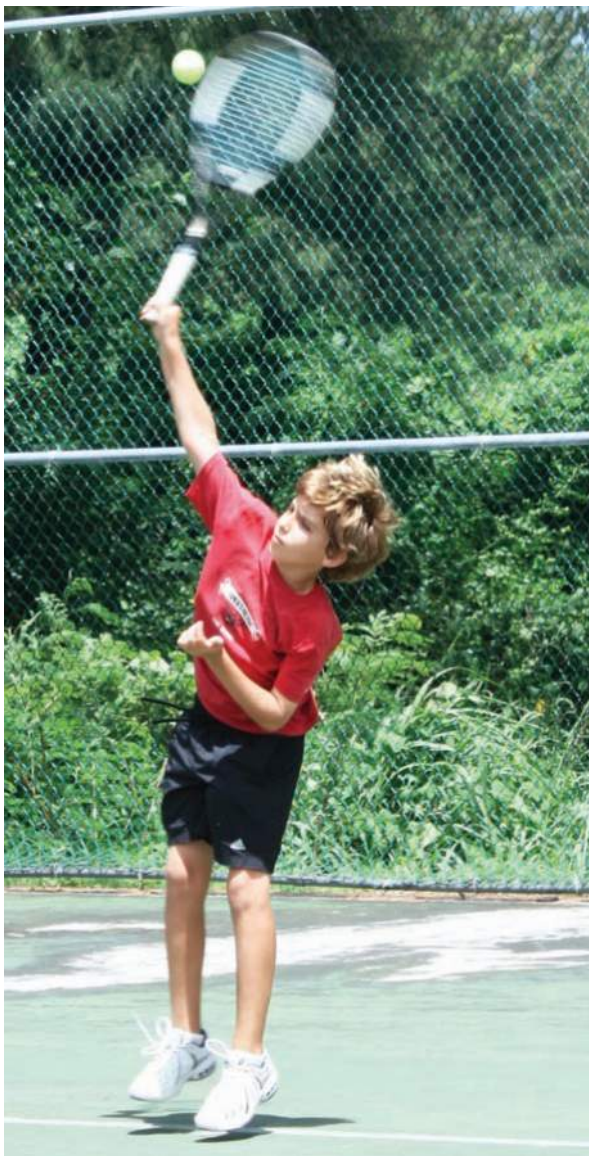
Less than a month after losing the same age group title against Colin Ramsey during the Pacific Islands Club tournament, Villanueva exacted revenge against his rival after pulling off a 6-0, 7-5 victory in their championship showdown in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships on Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

It was the third time this year that Villanueva and Ramsey met in the boys U12 finals with the former now enjoying a 2-1 advantage in their head-to-head encounter. Villanueva downed Ramsey in the Coconut Classic in February before the latter bounced back in the PIC tournament last month.

Villanueva earned a rematch against Ramsey after shutting out Michael Jones in the semifinals on Saturday, 6-0, 6-0. Ramsey took the last finals ticket after beating Michael Ren in the other semis game, 7-6, 6-3.

Other boys singles champions in the two-weekend tournament were Alex Park, Jake Lee, and Rafael Jones.

See **VILLANUEVA** on **Page 26**



Colin Ramsey, left, and Moris Villanueva, seen here in separate preliminary games in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships, met in the boys U12 singles finals with the latter winning on Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Technical delegates for Pacific Games named

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The technical delegates for the 2011 Pacific Games have been named more than four months before the competition kicks off in New Caledonia.

Leading the list is FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith, who will be the technical delegate for the basketball competition. Joining him are athletics' Simon Ware of Australia, archery's Carole Hicks of New Zealand, badminton's Corinne Barnard of New Zealand, baseball's Ray Brown of New Zealand, rugby 7's Wayne Schuster of Samoa, sailing's David Brookes of Australia, shooting's Milton Bradley of Norfolk Island and Ghislaine Briez of France, surfing's Alan Atkins of Australia, bodybuilding's Philip Hope of New Zealand, swimming's Bill Matson of New Zealand, boxing's Keith Walker of New Zealand, table tennis's Graeme Ireland of Australia, taekwondo's Kim Tae-Kyung of New Zealand, cricket's Adam Cassi-

See **TECHNICAL** on **Page 26**

Natibu still undefeated in Chamolinian league



By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu pulled off a last inning rally over Island Apparel-Xclusive, 13-10, during their men's division game in the Chamolinian Softball Association-2nd Annual

See **NATIBU** on **Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Man Amigos' Joey Dela Cruz cranks out a two-run homer against Berdax during their game in the Chamolinian Softball Association-2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League last Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Lim gets int'l umpire accreditation

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steven Lim earned a basic umpire accreditation from the International Table

Tennis Federation after completing a three-day course in Guam last week.

Oceania Table Tennis Federation Umpires and Referees Committee head David DelPratt of Australia conducted the course, which started in 2008. It aimed to prepare Lim and other umpires from OTTF-member countries for the 2011 Calvo Enterprises Guam Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis Tournament.

According to Lim, who also holds an OTTF Level 2 umpire accreditation, the course was a refresher for his duties as deputy referee in the 2011 Guam Junior and Cadet Open, which also served as a qualifier for the World Junior Team Championship and the Global Cadet Challenge Team Championship. He received the invitation to attend the seminar several months before the Guam tournament started.

Lim explained that in table tennis an



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The competition venue for the 2011 Calvo Enterprises Guam Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis Tournament is shown here. Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steven Lim was one of the deputy referees of the tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

umpire controls an official competitive match. A referee is also needed to take charge of other match officials, like the umpires and assistant umpires. All ITTF-sanctioned competitions are required to have at least three individuals who can carry the duties of a tournament referee due to the greater participation and significance of such competitions.

"This requirement is possibly fulfilled by appointing a head tournament referee. Two deputy referees are also invited or nominated and then approved. In the event the head tournament referee is indisposed, the deputy referees step in to become acting tournament referees. Referees are responsible for

See **LIM** on **Page 26**